

red for
national
freedom

Israeli soldiers wound 3

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Israeli soldiers shot and wounded three Palestinians Saturday in the occupied Gaza Strip, Palestinian officials said. Two were wounded in Beit Hanun and one in Gaza City, after they threw stones at Israeli patrols, the officials said. Meanwhile, some 200 students supporting the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) demonstrated in the Jabalia refugee camp in the strip against the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) accord on limited Palestinian autonomy, signed in Washington on Sept. 13. A general strike paralysed the Gaza Strip Saturday, called by Hamas in protest at the accord. All stores were closed and few cars were on the roads as most Palestinians obeyed the strike call, Hamas warned that all those who ignored the strike call would be "severely punished." Islamic militants threw stones at several vehicles and shops which remained open in Khan Yunes and Rafah Saturday, the Palestinian sources said.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordanian Press Syndicate
جوردان تايمز - صحيفة سياسية عربية مستقلة - مؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية - الراي

Sayegh questions make-up of aid panel

TUNIS (R) — A prominent Palestinian economist urged Palestine leader Yasser Arafat Saturday to reconsider the composition of an economic council set up last week to channel foreign aid to the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Youssef Sayegh, one of the council's 14 members, said it was packed with Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) politicians and "unknown young men some of whom just graduated." Dr. Sayegh told Reuters he would resign if the council was not reformed within two weeks. Mr. Arafat last week established the Economic Council for Development and Construction, which he will chair himself, to coordinate with international donors who have pledged \$2 billion to back the self-rule accord signed by Israel and the PLO. A Palestinian-Israeli committee will open economic talks in Paris Monday, both sides said. "Economic arrangements are the basis for real peace in the area hence the importance of the talks in Paris," said Israel Finance Minister Avraham Shohat, who heads the Israeli delegation. "I think what we have to do in Paris basically is to prepare an agenda and time frame for the discussions," Samir Huleihel, an economist on the Palestinian team, told Reuters.

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Israel speeds up West Bank digging

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Israel's antiquities department will send 16 teams of archaeologists to the occupied West Bank Sunday to speed up excavation work ahead of the implementation of Palestinian self-rule, Israel Radio reported Saturday. It said the researchers, who recently underwent special physical training to enable them to work in difficult areas, would head for sites in the Jordan Valley and the desert. Palestinian leaders have called for ancient artefacts found by the Israelis in the occupied territories to be returned since Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) signed a limited autonomy accord for the West Bank town of Jericho and the Gaza Strip on Sept. 13.

Terrorist threat seen in Somalia

MOGADISHU (AFP) — U.N. military officials warned Saturday that militants from an unspecified country had arrived here and could launch attacks on U.S. or other contingents of the U.N. peacekeeping force in Somalia. U.N. and U.S. forces were boosting security to protect against possible attacks, said U.N. military spokesman Major David Stockwell. "Analysis of intelligence reports has led us to believe that terrorist attacks on UNOSOM and/or U.S. forces are possible," Maj. Stockwell said in a statement. "This analysis reveals the presence in Mogadishu of an unspecified number of individuals, possibly Hizbollah fundamentalists with expertise in car-bombing techniques," the statement said. U.S. officials have warned Somali warlord Mohammed Farah Aidid that he will be considered responsible if such attacks occur. "The statement said U.N. and U.S. forces are taking appropriate measures to protect against possible attacks."

200 detained in Algiers — radio

ALGIERS (AFP) — Security forces detained some 200 people Saturday during a sweep of the Belcourt district of Algiers, Algerian radio said. The sweep was launched before dawn around the area of the "Kabuli" mosque, a stronghold of the extremist Muslim group known as "Afghans" composed of veterans from the war in Afghanistan. The "Afghans" form the hardcore of the Islamic Armed Group which has claimed responsibility for seizing three French consular workers at the end of October (see page 2).

Iraqi group says Shiites flee to border

TEHRAN (AFP) — A group of Shiite refugees fleeing Iraqi army attacks in the south of the country have gathered near the Iranian border and are waiting to enter the country, an Iraqi opposition group said Saturday. The army's "oppressive measures" have forced dozens of families to leave their homes in the southern marshlands of Iraq and move to the Hovar Al Howrah region, the Iran-based Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SCIRI) said in a statement.

30,000 displaced Sudanese to return

KHARTOUM (AFP) — Arrangements are currently under way to return some 30,000 southerners displaced by the civil war now in camps in the Sudanese capital back to the Fashoda area in south Sudan's Upper Nile state, the press reported here Saturday. The Al Saeed Al Watani daily quoted a Ministry of Peace and Rehabilitation official as saying that an ad hoc committee, chaired by a ministry representative, comprising a representative of the indigenous Shilluk tribe and representatives of local, foreign non-governmental and religious organisations, will take charge of the arrangements.

Arafat condemns killing of settler; clears way for resumed self-rule talks

TUNIS (Agencies) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat Saturday condemned the killing of a Jewish settler in the Israeli-occupied territories, and appealed for an end to acts of violence.

"We renounce and condemn the killing of Israeli settler (Haim) Mizrahi," Mr. Arafat was quoted as saying by the official Palestinian news agency Wafa.

It was the first time Mr. Arafat condemned a specific attack by Palestinians in Israel or the occupied territories.

Mizrahi was stabbed to death on Oct. 29 while buying eggs at a farm near the West Bank settlement of Beit El. Israeli authorities said Friday that five youths from Ramallah had confessed to the slaying. Mr. Arafat said the attack was carried out by an individual linked to the PLO "without orders of the leadership" and appealed for an end to all violence.

"We ask all the parties to abide with the agreement and to put an end to all acts of violence for the preservation of peace," he said.

The statement added that the PLO leadership would take appropriate measures.

The slaying was the first attack by men linked to the PLO organisation since it signed a peace agreement with Israel on Sept. 13.

On Friday, Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Mr. Arafat promised to con-

demn the action and assured Israel as well that he had ordered followers to refrain from violence.

U.S. President Bill Clinton praised Mr. Arafat's declaration.

"I think it's a very positive sign," Mr. Clinton said. "I've only received limited reports this morning but from what I've heard it's a very positive sign. It's the sort of thing that will enable them to work together and to implement the accord."

Asked whether the United States made any direct attempt to persuade Mr. Arafat to condemn the attack, Mr. Clinton said, "we had no direct contacts, the White House did not, but we made it very clear what our position was."

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said Mr. Arafat's condemnation of violence made it possible for Israel-PLO talks to resume, Israel Radio reported.

Israel Radio said Arafat's renunciation of violence came after all-night telephone contacts between senior Rabin aides in New York and PLO leaders in Tunis. Mr. Rabin is touring the United States.

Several hours after Mr. Arafat's statement, Rabin issued his own, saying Israel would not play into hands of Palestinian extremists who want to derail the peace talks, the radio said.

Now that Mr. Arafat has publicly denounced violence, the peace talks should con-

tinue, the radio quoted from Mr. Rabin's statement.

A senior Israeli government official said Israel-PLO talks on Palestinian autonomy would resume, probably Monday, in Cairo, and later in the week be moved to the Egyptian resort of Taba.

At issue is the implementation of the Sept. 13 agreement on Palestinian autonomy and Israeli troop withdrawal, which is to begin by April 13 in the occupied Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho. Negotiations must be wrapped up by Dec. 13.

Negotiations broke down after four rounds when the Palestinians walked out, saying Israel plans not to withdraw and redeployment of its troops. The Israelis said their original offer, in which their troops would still be allowed unhindered access to many of Gaza's roads despite the withdrawal, was not an ultimatum but was negotiable.

Egyptian mediation persuaded the two parties to return to the bargaining table, but this time in secret to avoid claimed press intrusions in the negotiating process. The two sides agreed to form a smaller committee to discuss obstacles to further talks.

The date for the original Taba committee to resume its meetings has not been divulged. The government-owned Egyptian newspaper Al Gomhura said Saturday the talks will resume in Taba next week after the two sides settle their disputes in Cairo.

Jordan celebrates King's birthday

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan today celebrates the 58th birthday of His Majesty King Hussein.

The King was brought up under the care of the late King Abdullah Ben Al Hussein, his grandfather and founder of the Kingdom, and his parents, King Talal, who passed away in 1972 and Queen Zein, the Queen Mother.

King Hussein underwent elementary education in Jordan before moving to Alexandria, Egypt, and later to Harrow School and the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst in England.

He acceded to the throne on Aug. 11, 1952, and assumed constitutional powers the following year when he became 19.

Celebrations

Jordan is celebrating the King's birthday by holding seminars, exhibitions and several cultural and educational activities and competitions.

In Amman, the Civil Aviation Authority will celebrate the event by inaugurating a health centre and a business centre at Queen Alia International Airport.

In Ramtha, the University of Jordan for Science and Technology (JUST) is organising a special programme that would include several cultural and educational activities.

In Karak, the Karak Centre for Rehabilitation is organising a one-week festival that includes seminars on the disabled. It will also include visits to the Ministry of Education schools as well as some trips to the touristic and archaeological sites.

In Irbid, there will be a comprehensive programme that includes seminars, exhibitions, and cultural activities.

The Ministry of Telecommunications issued commemorative stamps entitled "40th anniversary on His Majesty's assumption of his constitutional powers."



Crown Prince urges focus on refugees

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Saturday said that the Jordanian negotiators to the Arab-Israeli peace talks should concentrate on and reaffirm the rights of the Palestinian refugees in all aspects.

Speaking during a meeting at the Prime Ministry with Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali and Minister of State for Prime Ministry Affairs Jawad Al Anani, Prince Hassan reviewed in detail Jordan's stand with regard to the issue

of Palestine refugees and other aspects of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Prince Hassan urged the government to articulate Jordan's perceptions of a comprehensive and just peace and comprehensive security. He said that Jordanian delegates to the peace talks should insist that all countries and all peoples of the region should be treated equally.

Referring to coordination with the other Arab parties to the negotiations the Prince

stressed the need to crystallise Jordanian formulas aimed at promoting such coordination in order to arrive at a just and comprehensive settlement.

In reviewing with the prime minister several regional, Arab and international issues, the Crown Prince urged the government to define a number of concepts related to the peace process and other relevant issues, including a clear Jordanian plan for the coming stage of the peace negotiations

that aim at a durable settlement.

The Crown Prince emphasised that human resources development should take into consideration human rights and all the natural rights of people, including the right to develop resources in a manner that would help in the establishment of real peace.

As long as people do not feel tangible benefits of peace, that peace would soon lose its content and its ability to survive, Prince Hassan said.

Al Ahd seeks to form centrist coalition

By Mariam M. Shabbir
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The formation of the first parliamentary coalition is in the making less than a week after election results were announced, according to Abdul Hadi Al Majali, secretary general of the Al Ahd party.

"We began consultations on a coalition last night and will have decided on the members of the coalition by the end of the week," Mr. Majali said Saturday refusing to reveal either names or number of the coalition members.

The coalition is expected to

be called the National Action Front (NAF). Mr. Majali, however, refused to confirm the coalition name keeping most of the information about the parliamentary bloc shrouded in secrecy.

Sources close to Al Ahd, however, expect the coalition to group as many as 16 centrist and right-of-centre deputies.

Running as independents, four known Al Ahd members won seats last Monday in four different electoral districts without declaring themselves as party candidates. They were Ahmad Qudab of

(Continued on page 5)

Arafat tactics fuel discontent among proponents of accord

By Lami K. Andoni
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — An internal crisis within the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) is undermining efforts to implement the Israel-PLO autonomy accord and undermining the unity of supporters of the landmark agreement signed on Sept. 13.

The crisis, triggered by what critics see as PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's singlehanded approach to negotiations with Israel, has gained serious momentum over the last two weeks as disgruntled officials and negotiators have sought to build up support for organisational reforms.

Mr. Arafat has so far ignored calls by his colleagues to introduce organisational and political reforms, prompting some Palestinian negotiators and experts to consider withdrawing altogether from talks with Israel over implementation of the autonomy accord.

"The accord itself is loaded with landmines. If we fail to put our act together it will explode in our face," said one PLO official.

A memorandum circulated this week in Amman and the Israeli-occupied territories by Palestinian officials and negotiators demanded immediate reforms and setting

up specialised political and legal committees to chart out negotiating strategies and lead the transition to Palestinian autonomy.

The memorandum has been endorsed by the Palestine People's Party (PPP), a number of independents and even several well-placed PLO officials who are hoping to create public pressure on Mr. Arafat to change his tactics.

According to PLO officials, Mr. Arafat has sought to exclude his closest aides, including the architect of peace talks with Israel, Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen), from the decision-making process.

Since the signing of the autonomy accord in Washington, Mr. Arafat is said to have taken unilateral decisions and made appointments without consulting his colleagues or experts.

Mr. Arafat's decisions have aimed mainly at asserting his leadership and preempting others from assuming any position of prominence and significance.

In the view of many PLO officials, Mr. Arafat is trying to exclude any potential rivals, from within Fatah in particular, from assuming a key role to ensure that he will have the upper hand in the future entity.

Initially, however, Mr. Arafat tried to appease his

critics by agreeing to suggestions that politicians and experts formulate plans for the formation of a Palestine National Authority (PNA) and an economic and development council in a way that reconcile between professional and political expertise.

He also appeared to accept that the composition of the negotiating teams should be based on professional expertise. In fact Palestinian politicians and experts had reportedly worked for at least two weeks writing out detailed definitions and descriptions and terms of reference for political and technical teams.

But Mr. Arafat kept on procrastinating the actual process of discussing the appointments and strategies until the very last moment when he practically hand-picked the negotiating team to the Taba talks — reducing all written plans and advice to waste.

In retrospect, Mr. Arafat seemed to have gone along with his colleagues only to ensure their support and ratification of the Oslo accord at the Palestine Central Council (PCC) last month in Tunis.

The memorandum being distributed to gather signatures reminded Mr. Arafat that the PCC ratification was

(Continued on page 3)

Anani calls on parties to learn from election results

By a Jordan Times Reporter

AMMAN — Minister of State for Prime Ministry Affairs Jawad Anani Saturday called on political parties to evaluate their results in last week's elections instead of blaming the government for their failure.

Dr. Anani was reacting to a statement issued Saturday by five leftist parties accusing the government of being behind their poor showing in last Monday's elections.

"The current situation requires one to study the results and learn and benefit from his mistakes and evaluate the slogans that he put forth and the degree of his credibility among the people," Dr. Anani told the Jordan Times.

"In a joint statement, five leftist political parties accused the government of 'planning and working to produce a parliament that would serve the purposes of the (current) stage while keeping an appearance of formal democracy.'"

The statement was signed by the Jordanian Ba'ath Arab Socialist Party, the Jordan Communist Party, the Jordan People's Democratic Party (Hashd), the Jordan Socialist Democratic Party and the Jordan Democratic Popular Unity Party.

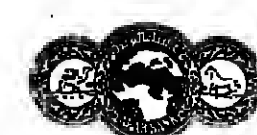
In the meantime, the Associated Press quoted residents of northern Mazar village as saying that on Wednesday police forcibly dispersed hundreds of demonstrators who protested alleged irregularities in the Nov. 8 elections, resulting in the injury of 70 people and the detention of about 200. The AP quoted Minister of Information Ma'an Abu Nowar as denying the report and said: "I can assure you that nothing of such nature took place in Mazar."

Happy Birthday
Your Majesty
and many, many
returns

Eng. Sabri Farah and family



ALL BRANCHES
OF THE



ARAB BANK

Present their best wishes
To

HIS MAJESTY KING HUSSEIN

On his birthday

and wish him many happy returns
of the day

U.N. lists three options for its Somalia force

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — Secretary-General Boutros Ghali is proposing three options for the troubled U.N. operation in Somalia, ranging from retaining its present mandate more or less intact to securing only ports and airports to keep supply routes open.

According to a summary of a report to the Security Council being issued on Monday, he flatly rejects the possibility of a complete withdrawal from the country, now recovering from the ravages of famine and civil war.

The U.N. Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM) comprises more than 29,000 troops. But a review is necessary because the United States, which has some 7,500 personnel on shore and more than 8,000 aboard ships, is withdrawing all but a few hundred logistics troops by March 31.

Belgium, France and Sweden, which together provide about 2,500 troops, have announced their intention to pull out even sooner and other countries may well follow suit. Under a middle option, UNOSOM would comprise some 16,000 troops plus about 2,500 logistics personnel, while the minimal third option would require a force of only about 5,000.

Which of the three options the Security Council chooses will largely depend on the availability of troops and resources and the degree of cooperation from local Somali factions.

UNOSOM has suffered dozens of casualties in recent months in clashes with followers of warlord General Mohammed Farah Aided, though it has abandoned efforts to hunt him down and is concentrating on political reconciliation.

Dr. Ghali says the council does not have to make an immediate decision which option to choose but should consider the possibilities as the

situation develops.

He says he has written to 42 U.N. members inviting them to provide troops and logistics support or to increase their existing contributions.

Meanwhile, he recommends renewing the existing mandate, which expires next Thursday, until March 31.

But UNOSOM would not use coercive measures to ensure a secure environment, which is lacking mainly in south Mogadishu, General Aided's stronghold. The U.N. force would try to initiate a political dialogue with all factions, including Gen. Aided's United Somali Congress/Somali National Alliance.

Rejecting any notion of a complete U.N. withdrawal, Dr. Ghali says: "The international community must not abandon Somalia in view of the incontrovertible desire of the Somali people for continued presence of UNOSOM in their country."

If the present mandate remained essentially unchanged, UNOSOM would not resort to coercive measures to enforce the disarmament of factions in south Mogadishu, but would "retain the necessary capability for coercive disarmament," should that prove necessary.

Under the second option, envisaging a strength of some 16,000 and a 2,500-member logistics command, the troops withdrawing by next March 31 would not have to be replaced.

UNOSOM would use force only in self-defence and disarmament of Somali factions would be entirely voluntary.

The emphasis would be on keeping main supply routes open, ensuring the unimpeded flow of humanitarian aid, rehabilitation of the country's shattered infrastructure, repatriation of refugees and political reconciliation.

Under the minimal third option, requiring some 5,000 troops, UNOSOM would be limited to securing the airports



People walk in the street of the Somali town of Balad, as life is coming back to normal (AFP photo)

and ports in Mogadishu and other parts of the country. The U.N. force would assist U.N. agencies and non-governmental organisations in delivering aid and carrying out development projects.

This option presupposes that the local authorities would be prepared to cooperate with UNOSOM and would provide a secure environment.

An Italian officer was killed in Somalia on Friday, the seventh from that country to die in the peacekeeping operations there, the Italian Defence Ministry reported.

Sergeant Major Vincenzo Li Causi and another officer were driving in a military vehicle near the town of Balad when a group of Somalis opened fire, apparently in a bid to seize an Italian civilian vehicle that was following, the ministry said late Friday.

The two soldiers returned fire. Li Causi, who was 41 and

the father of two children, died shortly afterward from a single bullet injury.

Pentagon to seek \$360m

The Pentagon plans to ask Congress for a supplemental appropriation of at least \$300 million for U.S. military operations in Somalia through March 31, a senior defence official said.

The official, who asked not to be identified, said the request would be to pay for American forces in Somalia from last month until the end of March.

"My guess is it (the request) is going to be in December or January," said the official of funds for the controversial presence of thousands of U.S. troops and equipment aiding in the humanitarian effort in Somalia.

If Congress does not approve the supplemental re-

quest — similar to an \$800 million appropriation it approved earlier for costs in Somalia — then the money will have to be paid out of regular Defence Department operations funds.

The official, who was discussing the 1994 defence budget with reporters, refused to predict how Congress might react to the request.

But he said appropriations committees in the House of Representatives and Senate are worried about the readiness of the U.S. military forces as the defence budget is being cut and would probably be sympathetic to the supplemental request for additional funds.

"We're at the stage now where we need a supplemental," the official said, adding, "I think there is genuine, palpable concern for the readiness of the forces." The money is above and

beyond the \$261 billion 1994 defence budget passed by Congress Wednesday and signed by President Clinton Thursday. That budget, covering the 12 months from Oct. 1, earmarks no money for Somalia.

In the past the Pentagon has paid for contingencies like Somalia by taking money from a budget account known as operations and maintenance — funds for things like operating vessels at sea, training tank crews and other activities designed to keep the forces ready to fight. It sometimes recouped the money by getting Congress to pass a supplemental budget bill.

Because the U.S. military in recent years has become involved in a much greater number of global operations, including humanitarian and peacekeeping missions, Defence Secretary Les Aspin asked Congress to create a separate account in the defence budget to pay for such activities. That way the funds for maintaining the forces' war-fighting readiness would not be jeopardized.

Fighting between U.N. troops and Aided partisans has killed more than 70 foreign soldiers and hundreds of Somalis since June. The worst clashes occurred in early October when U.S.-led troops tried to arrest Gen. Aided, who is blamed for the deaths of 24 Pakistani peacekeepers on June 5.

Dr. Ghali said that since the fighting in October the situation has been generally quiet.

But he warned: "Mogadishu remains tense. In the capital and elsewhere, major factions are rearming, apparently in anticipation of a possible return to widespread fighting sometime in 1994."

As a result, he stressed, "the international community must not abandon Somalia in view of the incontrovertible desire of the Somali people for the continued presence of UNOSOM in their country."

NEWS IN BRIEF

U.S. urges release of reporters in Afghanistan

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The United States called Friday for release of two reporters held by fighters for Afghan Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar's Hezb-e-Islami faction. Terence White of Agency France-Press and John Jennings of the U.S.-based Associated Press were detained while covering combat between the Hezb-e-Islami and President Burhanuddin Rabbani's militia on Monday. "Both are reportedly unharmed and in good health. Despite assurances by Hekmatyar's organisation that Jennings and White would be quickly released, they are still being held," said State Department spokesman Mike McCurry. "The United States government is concerned about this situation. We have contacted the Afghan embassy here in Washington and are following up," he said. "We will obviously continue to monitor the situation very, very closely," he added. The Vienna-based International Press Institute (IPI) also called Friday for the release of the two wire service journalists. The detention of the pair "was a clear violation of the rights of journalists to seek, receive and impart information," the IPI said.

Yugoslav president receives Libyan envoy

BELGRADE (AFP) — Federal Yugoslav President Zoran Djindjic on Friday met here with a special envoy from Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi, the Tanjug news agency reported. The agency, citing a statement from the president's office, said Mr. Djindjic and Ali Abdul Salem Triki discussed United Nations sanctions imposed on Yugoslavia for its involvement in the Bosnian fighting and agreed that such measures did not contribute to the solution of international problems. Libya too is under U.N. sanctions, which were tightened Thursday, on grounds that it has refused to hand over two suspects in the 1988 Lockerbie airliner bombing for trial in either Britain or the United States. The talks here also dealt with peace efforts under way in the former Yugoslav republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, according to Tanjug. Libya is one of the few Arab states that has maintained good relations with rump Yugoslavia, now reduced to Serbia and Montenegro, since the outbreak of fighting between Bosnian Serbs, Muslims and Croats in April 1992.

U.S. navy in war games with Britain, France

MANAMA (R) — The United States, Britain and France are holding joint naval war games in the Gulf, a U.S. naval force central command statement said Saturday. It said the U.S. Navy ship USS Nicholson, the British HMS Cornwall and HMS Campbeltown and the French La Motte Piquet were taking part in the four-day Gulfex XXI exercises which started on Nov. 12. The statement did not say where in the "Arabian Gulf" the exercises were taking place. It said British Royal Air Force Tornado jet aircraft would also participate in the air defence exercises. "Gulfex XXI was designed to sharpen the three navies' ability to work together in support of peace in the region," Vice-Admiral Douglas Katz, the U.S. Navy's top officer in the Middle East, said. "This is just a part of a very active exercise programme we conduct — predominantly with the Gulf Cooperation Council militaries — but also with other Western navies," he added.

Light quake rattles Lebanon

BEIRUT (AFP) — A mild earthquake shook Lebanon late Friday but there were no reports of casualties or serious damage, radio stations reported. The intensity of the tremor, which occurred at 10:25 p.m. (2025 GMT) was not known but radio stations said that windows shattered in some houses, although no other serious damage was reported.

Venezuela to return envoy to Iraq

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Venezuela has sent an ambassador back to Baghdad, becoming the first Western nation to take such a step since the 1991 Gulf war. Ambassador Ernesto Velasco Rojas told that he plans to present his credentials within the next week to the Iraqi authorities. U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher last month complained about the move to his Venezuelan counterpart, General Fernando Ochoa Antich, on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly in New York, the ambassador said. A Kuwaiti official also complained about the move in Caracas, he added. The 71-year-old diplomat, whose country is the third largest producer in the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), said "my mission will be 95 per cent petrol, five per cent politics."

Snake's 'kiss of death' kills villager

CAIRO (AP) — A villager who attempted to imitate traditional Egyptian snakehandlers by putting the head of a snake in his mouth died instantly when the reptile bit him, a newspaper reported Saturday. Nazih Mohammad Abu Al Gheit was in Desouq, a town in the Nile Delta 220 kilometres northeast of Cairo, to visit a famous mosque where a Muslim saint is interred, the newspaper Al Massa wrote. Abu Al Gheit was sidetracked by street entertainers performing with live snakes. Sneaking among the onlookers, he picked up a snake and tried to put it in his mouth. It bit him twice, on the lip and tongue. Villagers often visit mosques containing tombs of saints to seek their blessing.

Kohl's aide called to testify

BERLIN (AP) — A court has asked Chancellor Helmut Kohl's intelligence director to testify about his recent talks with Iran's secret police chief. Bernd Schmidbauer was asked to testify at the trial of four Lebanese men and Iranian secret agent Kazem Badabi. It was not immediately clear when the government official would testify. The men are on trial for the Sept. 17, 1992, attack that killed four Iranian dissidents. The most prominent victim was Sadiq Sharafkandi, the head of the Kurdish Democratic Party of Iran. After meeting Iran's secret police chief, Ali Fallahian, in Bonn last month, Mr. Schmidbauer said the evidence may exonerate Iran in the quadruple murder.

French court indicts 3 FIS allies

PARIS (Agencies) — Three Algerians close to Algeria's banned fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) were indicted here early Saturday by a French judge, court sources reported.

Moussa Kraouche, 34, Abdul Haq Boujaadar, 32, and Larbi Beddief were charged with criminal association in connection with "terrorist" activities by investigating Judge Roger le Loire.

The three were among 88 suspected Algerian fundamentalists detained around the country on Tuesday in an apparent reprisal for Muslim fundamentalist threats against French nationals in Algeria.

Mr. Kraouche, who was detained in a Paris suburb and remains in custody, is a spokesman for the Algerian Brotherhood in France, considered a front for FIS.

He is accused of having been "a special contact for Rabah Kebir," head of the overseas branch of FIS and currently a refugee in Germany.

Mr. Kraouche allegedly received "political and religious instructions" from Mr. Kebir. At his home near here, investigators said they found a copy of a letter in which the Armed Islamic Group (GIA) claimed responsibility for the kidnapping of three French consular officials in Algeria on Oct. 24.

The trio were freed a week later. Mr. Kraouche was also reported to have been in possession of a copy of a letter from one of the hostages, Michelle Thevenot, given to her by her captors and threatening the lives of French nationals in

Algeria. In addition, investigators searching Mr. Kraouche's residence found a statement from the Supreme Council of the Islamic Armed Forces, which was sent to AFP on Monday.

Potential bomb-making components were discovered in the home of Mr. Boujaadar, who was apprehended in the central French city of Orleans and who is still in custody, according to police.

Mr. Beddief, the third defendant, was alleged to have been in possession at his residence outside Paris of two rifles, a hunting weapon and a silencer, as well as an instruction booklet on handling explosives.

Mr. Beddief surrendered "spontaneously" to police here on Friday and was allowed to remain at liberty under court supervision.

Jacques Verges, a lawyer for the three accused, insisted that the charges were "political and will not stick."

Of the documents allegedly found on Mr. Kraouche, he said: "As an official of his association, he is interested in these problems (in Algeria) and receives all sorts of communications. He is implicitly accused of having links to Rabah Kebir."

As for Mr. Boujaadar, Mr. Verges insisted that the components reportedly found in his home "were not going to be used to make detonators but were for switches and lots of other things."

Tuesday's crackdown, which led to the expulsion to Turkey a day later of fundamentalist preacher Hussein Konus, 59,

was justified in order to crush militant groups in France thought to have links with the Islamic Salvation Front, according to Interior Minister Charles Pasqua.

Mr. Pasqua said Wednesday that while the FIS does not operate directly in France, "organisations with similar leanings do," stressing that the country could not allow these groups to function under the cover of cultural organisations.

The Algerian Brotherhood was registered with French police in January 1991 as an organisation strengthening "cultural links between Algerians and immigrants."

But last June authorities banned two of its publications because of their "violently anti-Western and anti-French" language.

The group denies links to the FIS, but was known to have encouraged Algerians in France to vote for the movement in general elections in December 1991.

The Algerian army stepped in to cancel the second round of elections the following month, which Islamic fundamentalist candidates appeared destined to win, sparking a guerrilla war with supporters of the FIS.

Moroccan imam expelled

On Friday, French authorities expelled a Moroccan imam, the second Muslim cleric to be deported this week as the government cracked down on Islamic extremists.

Mohammad Lilouia, one of two imams of the mosque in Carpentras 500 kilometres southeast of Paris, was put on a

ship headed for Morocco on Thursday night, police said.

The Vaucluse regional prefecture in May refused to renew Sheikh Lilouia's residence permit because of "disturbance of public order as a result of his activities," according to the imam's lawyer, Michel Raubaud.

Mr. Raubaud did not elaborate on what activities Sheikh Lilouia had engaged in. The cleric had been living in France for the past six years.

On Wednesday, French authorities invoked a little-used procedure of "absolute urgency" to immediately expel Muslim cleric Hussein Konus, 59, to his native Turkey, the interior ministry said.

The government based the measure on "anti-French declarations" made by Sheikh Konus, who was practicing in Nantua, in southeast France. On Nov. 6 he said that "the law of Allah must be followed before French law."

The statement was made in support of four Muslim girls suspended from their Nantua school for refusing to remove traditional Muslim head scarves in the classroom. The mosque where he preached is said to be a gathering point for Muslim radicals.

Police in uniform or plainclothes on Friday were posted outside several mosques in northeastern Paris that are heavily populated by Muslims.

The objective was to "watch for eventual reactions by the Islamic Salvation Front, or of its movement, and to see if any leaflets would be handed out," said an officer speaking on condition of anonymity.

Clinton may overrule prosecutors on Pollard

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bill Clinton left open the possibility Friday of freeing convicted spy Jonathan Pollard even if the Justice Department recommends against commuting Mr. Pollard's life sentence for passing secrets to Israel.

Mr. Clinton made clear in comments to reporters following a meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin that the decision on a pardon was his alone, though under U.S. government procedures he must await the Justice Department's advice.

Mr. Pollard, a former civilian navy intelligence analyst, pleaded guilty in 1986 to conspiracy to commit espionage. He admitted passing thousands of pages of highly sensitive documents after being recruited by Israel as a spy in 1984.

Mr. Rabin had asked the president to commute the life sentence and raised the issue during their meeting. Mr. Clinton said.

"I explained that under our procedure here, I cannot make a decision on the Pollard case until the Justice Department makes a recommendation to me," Mr. Clinton said when the two leaders met reporters after their meeting.

"Under the U.S. constitution, I do not have to follow the recommendation of the Justice Department, but under our procedure I have to get one. When I get one, which won't be too long in the future, I will then review it and make a

decision," Mr. Clinton said.

Mr. Pollard, 39, has served eight years in prison and is eligible in 1996 to be considered for parole.

The U.S. attorney's office here, which prosecuted Mr. Pollard, has already recommended against granting executive clemency, according to a federal law enforcement source who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Veteran law enforcement officials, also speaking anonymously, predict that the Justice Department is unlikely to recommend that Mr. Pollard's sentence be commuted.

But some of Mr. Pollard's supporters, including his attorney Theodore B. Olson, said they were encouraged by the president's statement Friday.

"I am encouraged he is acknowledging that he can render whatever decision he wants irrespective of what recommendation he may get from the Department of Justice," Mr. Olson said.

Others also said they found Mr. Clinton's statement to be encouraging.

"I find that statement to be positive because it means that Clinton will make up his own mind and I have faith in Clinton's judgment," said Elan Steinberg, executive director of the World Jewish Congress.

Mr. Pollard's supporters argue that he received a far harsher sentence than other people who spied for allied nations.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 773111-19	
PROGRAMME TWO	
17:30	Feature Film: "Une Partie En Trop"
19:45	News in French
19:55	News in Arabic
20:30	You Bet Your Life
21:10	Thirtysomething
22:30	News in English
22:30	Legacy — "The Barbarian West"
23:10	The Golden Palace
PRAYER TIMES	
04:30	Fajr
05:50	(Sunrise) Dhuhr
11:30	Dhuhr
14:10	Asr
16:41	Maghreb
18:21	Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedish, Tel. 810740	
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 634390	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 611757	
Terrence Church Tel. 622366	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 633541	
Anglican Church Tel. 630851	
Tel. 628543	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 771331	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751	
Armenian International Church Tel. 625226	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328	
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 684195	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 634922	
Church of Nazareth Tel. 637691	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
There will be a rise in temperatures and winds will be southeasterly moderate. In Amman, winds will be northerly moderate and sea calm.	
Amman Min./Max. temp. 6/15	
Aqaba 12/25	
Dera 5/18	
Jordan Valley 10/24	
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 12, Aqaba 23, Humidity readings: Amman 43 per cent, Aqaba 45 per cent.	

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Mohammed Al Nahawi	819213
Dr. Jamil Marqat	776149
Dr. Mukhlis Hama	819220
Dr. Jamal Juraif	847351
First pharmacy	561912
Fordons pharmacy	778336
Al Asana pharmacy	637055
Natrouk pharmacy	623672
Al Salama pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	644945
Shameisi pharmacy	637660
Najib pharmacy	847632
BRID:	
Dr. Mazen Shaurani	248056
Alquds pharmacy	(—)
ZARQA:	
Dr. Nafid Damaah	985532
Khalil pharmacy	985417

EMERGENCIES	
Food Control Centre	637111
Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Emergency	630341
Rescue	199
Rescue Police	192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade	591228
Blood Bank	775121
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	896390
Public Security Department	630321
Hotel Complaints	605800
Price Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage	
Complaints	897467
Amman Municipality	
Telephone Information	787111
(directory assistance)	121
Overseas Calls	010230
Central Amman Telephone	
Repairs	623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs	661101
Jordan Television	773111
Radio Jordan	774111
Water Authority	480100
Electricity Authority	815615
Company	636361
RJ Flight Information	08-53200
Queen Alia Int. Airport	08-53300

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:	
Hussein Medical Centre	813813/32
Khalil Maternity, J. Amn	642412
Alqad Maternity, J. Amn	642412
Jabal Amman Maternity	642412
Malhas, J. Amman	636140
Palestine, Shamsani	664171/4
Shamsani Hospital	699311
University Hospital	845845
Al-Muhsin Hospital	667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali	666127/7
Al-Ahli, Abdali	664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajirin	771101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh	891611/5
Army, Marka	891611/5
Queen Alia Hospital	602240/30
Amal Hospital	641155
ZARQA:	
Zarqa Govt. Hospital	(09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital	(09)900560
Im Sina Hospital	(09)986732
Al-Hima Modern Hospital	(09)99090
BRID:	
Princess Beama Hospital	(02)275555
Creek Catholic Hospital	(02)272275
Im Al Nafesa Hospital	(02)247100
AQABA:	
Shamsi Haya Hospital	(03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

Mirai promoted to general

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Royal Decree was issued Saturday promoting the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Abdul Hafez Mirai Kaabneh from Lieutenant General to the rank of General.

General Mirai obtained an M.Sc. in military science from the Royal College of Defence Studies in England.

He is also a graduate of the Royal Military Academy in

Jordan.

He had served as Deputy Chief of Staff for Intelligence.

In 1962, he was awarded the Medal of Gallantry, Jordan's highest decoration for heroism in battle.

Prior to his appointment as joint chiefs chairman, Gen. Mirai was a member of the Jordanian delegation to the Arab-Israeli peace talks.



Gen. Abdul Hafez Mirai Kaabneh

Report cites 13 home demolitions, 13 killings by Israeli forces

AMMAN (Petra) — The Israeli occupation authorities last month demolished 13 Arab homes in the Gaza Strip using rockets in what they claim was a search for armed men resisting the occupation, said a monthly report issued by the Department of Palestinian Affairs at the Foreign Ministry.

In October, Israeli troops shot and killed 13 Arabs, thus raising to 1,528 the number of Arabs killed by Israeli forces since the start of the intifada in December 1987, added the report released Saturday.

Perhaps the worst events in the occupied Arab lands, the report noted, were the recurrent attacks by Jewish settlers on Arabs and their property.

Noting that most of the attacks occurred in the vicinity

of Ramallah, Bireh and Bir Zeit and nearby villages, the report said that the settlers burned and destroyed homes and cars in the wake of the kidnapping of one settler from Beit Eel near Ramallah.

All these attacks, said the report, were carried out under the eyes of and through encouragement by the Israeli armed forces.

The report quoted Saeb Erekat, deputy head of the Palestinian delegation to the Arab-Israeli peace talks, as saying that in view of the continued attacks there was need for U.N. forces to provide protection to the Palestinian population.

It said that continued atrocities on the part of the Jewish settlers were bound to undermine the entire peace process.

Referring to Jerusalem, the report said that a decision was taken by the Israeli government to set up a new Jewish settlement at the Ras Al Amoud district in Arah Jerusalem on 13.5 dunums of expropriated Arah land.

It cited a recent statement by the Israeli housing minister who said that 13,000 homes for the Jewish settlers would be set up on the outskirts of the Holy City.

To build the settlements and expand the existing ones, said the report, the Israelis have so far seized 3,082,010 dunums in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. So far, it added, 186 Jewish settlements have mushroomed in the West Bank and 20 have been established in the Gaza Strip.



Experts to find ways to care for growing senior citizen population

AMMAN (Petra) — Improved and advanced health care has increased the senior citizen population, which means that further efforts are needed to meet the needs of the Kingdom's elderly, Health Ministry Secretary General Mahmoud Al Shabed said here Saturday.

Dr. Shabed told the opening session of a three-day regional meeting on improving the health of and ways of caring for the elderly that the senior citizens had paved the way for the future generations and therefore they require proper attention in health, economic and social matters.

Organised by the World

Health Organisation (WHO), in cooperation with the health ministry, the meeting is attended by 50 representatives and specialists in Arah and foreign countries in the Eastern Mediterranean region including Jordan.

The health ministry, said Dr. Shabed, would spare no efforts in implementing WHO charted programmes for the care of the elderly.

Abdul Majid Abdul Hadi, the WHO representative at the meeting, said that in WHO's view there can be no special programmes for the care of the elderly separate from the

national programmes.

Senior citizen care, Dr. Abdul Hadi added, should be part of the primary health care service adopted by each country in accordance with its own priorities.

Organisers said the meeting was an opportunity for the exchange of expertise and information related and it was expected to result in guidelines for workers in the field in the Eastern Mediterranean region.

Attending the meetings along with Jordan are representatives from India, Iran, Egypt, Tunisia, Syria, Qatar, Bahrain, and Cyprus.

NEWS IN BRIEF

- Senate speaker receives report on Kashmir**
AMMAN (Petra) — Speaker of the Senate Alasad At Lawzi Saturday received a copy of a report compiled by the Pakistani parliament about the Kashmir problem. The Pakistani legislature has been distributing copies of the report to all world parliaments, according to Mr. Lawzi who said that Jordan is committed to international legitimacy and human rights principles in all international or regional conflicts.
- Amman-Sydney flights to start**
AMMAN (Petra) — The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) announced Saturday that it has concluded a deal with the Civil Aviation Authority of Australia, for the commencement of direct flights between Amman and Sydney. The CAA said in a statement that under the agreement Royal Jordanian (RJ) will make two weekly flights between Amman and Sydney against two flights by Qantas, the Australian airline. It said that the agreement came as a result of talks which CAA Director Ahmad Juwiler held in Sydney last September.
- French to restore Dead Sea manuscripts**
AMMAN (Petra) — Under a deal signed by the Higher Council for Science and Technology and the French Electricity Company, the latter will carry out restoration and maintenance of the Dead Sea manuscripts which were inscribed in brass. The government has approved the project which is backed by guarantees from the French government, and the manuscripts were flown Friday to Paris for the year-long maintenance work.
- 500 businessmen to discuss monetary issues**
AMMAN (Petra) — Central Bank of Jordan Governor Mohammad Saeed Nahulsi will be the guest of honour at a meeting to be held at the Philadelphia Hotel Monday evening by the Jordanian Businessmen's Association. Discussion at the meeting which will be attended by 500 Jordanian businessmen will focus on monetary and banking issues relevant to the Middle East peace process.
- Relief supplies sent to Chechen flood victims**
AMMAN (Petra) — In pursuit of its policy of coming to the aid of Arah and Muslim people stricken with natural disasters, the Hashemite Charity Organisation (HCO) Saturday dispatched 14 tonnes of relief supplies to the Chechen Republic to help relieve the victims of recent floods. Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Salam Al Ahbadi, who saw off the plane, said that on board were medical and food supplies in addition to blankets. Dr. Abbadi said all the relief supplies were donated by the people of Jordan to the flood victims in the Chechen Republic.
- Antiquities director to participate in Cairo conference**
AMMAN (Petra) — The director of the Department of Antiquities, Safwan Tell, flew to Cairo Saturday to attend a seminar on the protection of cultural heritage in North Africa and the Middle East. Dr. Tell, he would submit a working paper on the department's activities, especially in the restoration of archaeological sites.

Parliament to construct new complex to house offices for senators, deputies

AMMAN (Petra) — Parliament has acquired two dunums of land nearby its premises to construct a new building to house offices for members of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament, according to an announcement by Parliament Secretary General Saleh Al Zoubi.

The Prime Ministry and the General Command of the Jordanian Armed Forces have given their consent to the project and assigned two dunums next to the Parliament building for its implementation, said Mr. Zoubi in a statement Saturday.

He said the building will be linked to the main building via an underground tunnel.

Mr. Zoubi said designs for the project have already been completed and work would start soon.

In addition to the new offices, he added, the new complex will include a car park, a library, a conference hall and areas for several other

future activities.

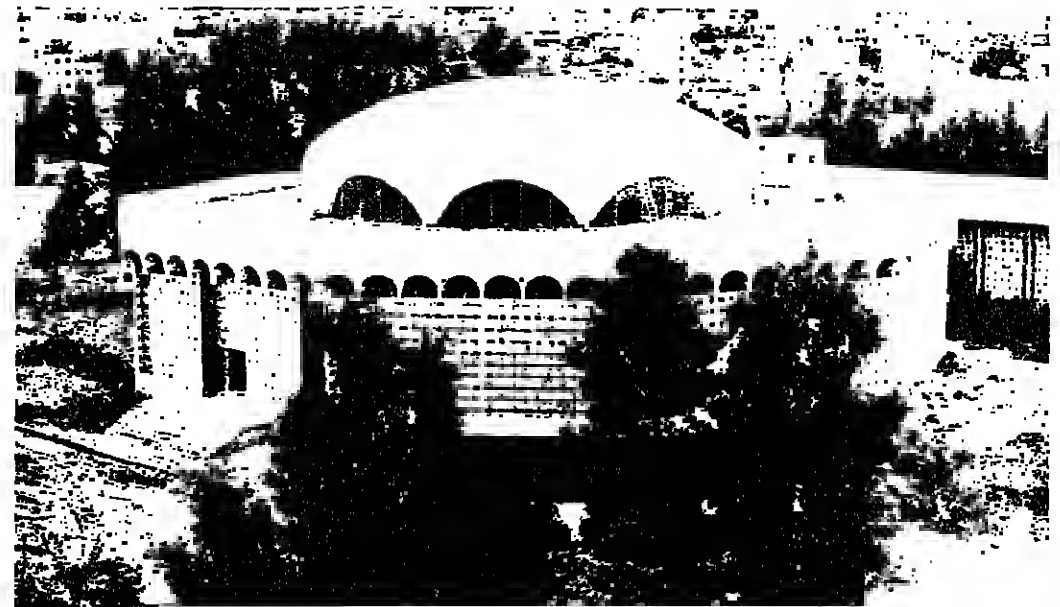
At the same time, he said, designs have been drawn up for the construction of another building within this complex to serve as a waiting hall for citizens wishing to meet their representatives.

Mr. Zoubi said other preparations were also underway for the opening of the 12th Parliament expected early next month.

His Majesty King Hussein usually opens the session with a speech from the throne, then a joint session of the two houses is held and later separate meetings are scheduled, explained Mr. Zoubi.

In preparing for the coming session, he noted, a central computer system has been installed to record and store various activities of the two houses including legislation and minutes of each of the sessions, as well as research studies conducted on parliamentary work.

According to Mr. Zoubi, the



The dome of the Jordanian Parliament (File photo)

parliament staff has already been trained on the computer and has taken courses in English language, secretarial work and storing legal research work.

The Parliament dome was re-painted under the supervision of a team of teachers from the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST), said Mr. Zoubi.

Missing persons found in police custody after families place advertisements in press

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A 30-year-old man reported missing 10 days ago in Irbid was discovered at Zarqa police station four days later.

Adel A. Dalqamouni was picked up by police Friday Nov. 5, because of "incriminating circumstances," Aref Dalqamouni, Adel's father, told the Jordan Times Saturday.

Mr. Dalqamouni said he was unaware that his son was in the custody of police, and when Adel disappeared on Nov. 5, he feared that his son has been kidnapped or killed.

"I informed the police station (in Irbid)... They assured me that they would check with other stations, but apparently Zarqa police station was not alerted," said the father of five.

He said that his only alternative was to place an

advertisement about his missing son in local newspapers.

Mr. Dalqamouni said that after the advertisement appeared, he received a call from an official at Baireen Jail in Zarqa informing him that his son was in police custody.

Adel told the Jordan Times he was waiting at a Zarqa station about midnight Friday to catch a bus to Irbid when he was arrested by police.

He believes the police became suspicious of his presence at that area at that time of night and arrested him.

Adel contends that police security patrols were intensified prior and during the Nov. 8 parliamentary elections and that officers were picking up any one they found "suspicious."

Adel's 60-year-old father said he was upset that his son had to stay in jail for four days for what he contends is "no wrongdoing."



Adel A. Dalqamouni



Mohammad O. Sharedee

the sister of Mohammed O. Sharedee told the Jordan Times Friday.

She said when her brother did not return home, the family became worried and reported him missing to Irbid police. But the officers said they had no information on the boy, said the sister.

The family placed an advertisement including a description and photograph of the missing boy, in the local newspapers.

The 11-year-old boy's sister said the family received a telephone call the next day from the Amman police informing the family that their son was in police custody.

"It seems that my brother got bored in Irbid and decided on his own to leave the house and go to Amman," the sister said. She said that the police were helpful, and treated her brother kindly while in custody, until he was claimed by his family.

Usually, the official explained, this process could take three to four days.

In a separate incident, an Irbid boy who was reported missing on Nov. 7, was found in police custody in Amman four days later.

"My brother was picked up by the Amman police Sunday while he was trying to sell chewing gum in the streets,"

Arafat tactics fuel discontent

(Continued from page 1)

qualified by measures that could guarantee an efficient Palestinian performance through political and organisational reforms.

"The endorsement of the majority of those who voted (at the PCC) in favour of the declaration of principles (with Israel) — judging by their presentations at the meeting — was conditional upon improving the Palestinian performance and the mobilisation of all Palestinian potentials... because there is an acute awareness that the accord will either lead to Palestinian independence or the consolidation of Israeli occupation," the memorandum said.

A month after the PCC session, many officials and negotiators are reaching the conclusion that if Mr. Arafat continues to pursue his "autocratic" leadership the Israeli-PLO negotiations will close the door against all possibilities of an independent Palestinian state.

In an article published in Al Hayat last month, Nabil Amr, a former PLO ambassador and close aide to Mr. Arafat, indicated that it was high time to restructure the organisation and that the new era needs a new leadership.

PLO officials who are leading the "opposition from within" movement, insist that they are by no means ready to join the opposition but will not tolerate Mr. Arafat's practices.

It is not clear how far and how coherent the emerging coalition will prove to be. They — just like the opposition — come from different political backgrounds. Mr. Arafat might successfully appease some of his critics by appointing them to important positions.

"The aim to gather momentum for a movement of change from within," said one PLO official involved in the reformist drive. "Thus even if some drop out it will not matter once popular pressure is built up on Mr. Arafat."

Analysts do not rule the possibility that some might join the reformist camp to improve their bargaining position in the current power struggle over positions in the

negotiating team, the PNA or the economic council.

The "reformists," however, are expected to face serious obstacles.

Mr. Arafat's critics from the Fateh movement have been reluctant to apply pressure on the PLO leader partly for fear of splitting the Fateh movement and partly because they risk losing their livelihoods.

Secondly, if they succeeded in convening the Palestine National Council (PNC), they will find themselves confronting both Mr. Arafat on the one hand and hardline opponents of the accord on the other.

Aware of such a definite possibility, Mr. Arafat is most likely to try to corner his critics by trying to force them to choose between the "peace camp and 'the opposition'."

Thirdly, even though many PLO officials, including some from Fateh, seem ready to demand the resignation of Mr. Arafat if he does not abandon his singlehanded methods, it is still not clear if either Mr. Abbas, who said to support the "reform movement" or Farouk Kaddoumi, who is the second-in-command of Fateh, is ready to take over — or can muster the needed support.

Mr. Arafat has been apparently trying to play Mr. Abbas and Mr. Kaddoumi against each other by alternately "promoting" or "excluding" them from the "decision-making circle."

But PLO officials and analysts point out that the issue is no longer an in-house powerplay as international donors are voicing dissatisfactions with the PLO politics.

The prospect for change so far seem slim, especially that the PLO is badly split over the accord, and the power struggle has intensified as Mr. Arafat want to ensure his control during the autonomy period.

But even if Mr. Arafat succeeds to deflate the mounting discontent, Palestinian officials and analysts expect opposition to widen and deepen, particularly once the Palestinian autonomy is set up and the leadership moves to the occupied territories.

CARE, Jordan agree to start development, relief projects

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Australian charity organisation CARE Saturday signed an agreement with the Ministry of Social Development to implement several development, humanitarian and relief projects in Jordan, especially during natural disasters or in cases of regional conflicts affecting the Kingdom.

Under the agreement, CARE will also help rehabilitate people through projects that would enable them to resume their normal economic and social life in the aftermath

of such disasters.

CARE will make contributions towards the implementation of income-generating projects which could employ workers in the economic, social and services sectors and will provide food, medical aid and equipment for these projects.

For its part, the Ministry of Social Development will supervise and follow up the implementation of these projects. CARE is a humanitarian, non-profit, secular organisation concerned with emergency

assistance to people in need and local community development in the spirit of self-help.

For the past two years CARE has been active in emergency relief projects for Iraq, Jordan, Yemen and Mauritania through its regional office in Amman. CARE has recently become involved in small, local community development projects in cooperation with the Ministry of Social Development, and the organisation hopes to further expand its activities with a focus on community development.

CARE which formally opened its office in Amman in 1959, signed the first agreement with Jordan to provide relief assistance to the country in 1949.

The agreement Saturday was signed by Minister of Social Development Mohammad Saeed Nahulsi and CARE Regional Director Robert Yallop.

WHAT'S GOING ON

- EXHIBITIONS**
- ★ Art exhibition by artist Ibrahim Al Nashashibi at Baladna Art Gallery (Gardens Street).
 - ★ The Palestinian embroidery exhibit at the Royal Cultural Centre (daily 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.).
 - ★ Jordanian stamps exhibition at the Orthodox Club in Abdoun.
 - ★ Exhibition of recent paintings by artist Ammar Khammash at Darat Al Founa of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Luweideh. Also showing, the permanent exhibition (Saturday-Thursday 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.).
 - ★ Art exhibition by Iraqi artist Fahmi Al Qaysi at the Alia Art Gallery.
- REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE**
- ★ A Service of Remembrance will be held at the Church of the Redeemer at 6:30 p.m.

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Tonight

1. The Fugitive
2. The Prince Of Tides

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An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
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Jordan Times advertising department.

Meaningful occasion

HIS Majesty King Hussein's 58th birthday celebrations today distinguished themselves from previous occasions by two milestones: The elections for the 12th parliament and the advent of peace. One is the Middle East peace process which has made considerable progress during 1993, unmatched by all the past 25 years of fruitless efforts. If, as expected, this year will witness a real breakthrough on the various Arab-Israeli fronts, then the King's birthday this year would acquire a historical dimension.

On the internal level, the fact that the 1993 general elections were conducted on schedule, in spite of all the odds, would surely go down in history as the year that consolidated the Jordanian democratic process and made it irreversible. Contemporary historians will not fail to mention that during the King's 58th year, democracy in Jordan was consolidated and moderation achieved.

The King has been at the forefront of Arab and non-Arab leaders campaigning for a just and lasting settlement of the Middle East conflict. That fact has been acknowledged by friend and foe alike. He has had a vision of peace during all the years at the helm of the country. Despite obstacles in the path of peace, by Israelis and Arabs alike, the King kept carrying the torch of peace and relentlessly pursuing it. And to help achieve this noble goal, the King has positioned Jordan on the track of democracy and moderation.

When we, God willing, celebrate the King's 59th birthday next year, we hope that the seeds of peace and democracy that His Majesty has sown would have borne fruit.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily Saturday described the repeated differences among the leaders of Yemen as a real pain that tends to undermine the Yemeni unity. The differences constitute a real threat to this unity and the Arabs hope the Yemeni leaders would soon contain and dispel these differences and rise above petty disputes to reestablish confidence in the unity of the north and south of Yemen which fused a few years ago, said the daily. Perhaps Jordan is one Arab country most concerned with and continually advocates unity among the Arabs who, the paper said, could together chart a brighter future. Noting that King Hussein was quick to try to end the differences in views among the Yemeni leaders since the start of the crisis, the paper said that the Yemeni people and leaders realise that their unity is targeted by their enemies and therefore ought to act in a manner that would best safeguard this unity. It is indeed our hope, said the paper, that the Yemeni people will protect their unity and preserve our joy over their cohesion and their solidarity. It said the time has come for the Yemeni people to prove to the world in general and the Arab states in particular that their unity is possible and sustainable and that the Yemeni people are determined to overcome the obstacles and are resolved to fight off hegemony and hostile forces that aim at dividing their country.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i daily drew the Arab Nation's attention to the fact that the United States is only feared by the Arabs in the wake of the Gulf crisis. Following its failures in Somalia, Haiti and Bosnia, the United States is desperately trying to consolidate its hegemony over the Arab states, said Tareq Masarweh. Washington has of course tried its hand with Europe and Japan, where it hoped to impose its domination following the downfall of the Soviet Union, he said. The writer said that the United States is imposing its terrible presence on the Arabs by pursuing the embargo on Iraq and by pillaging the Arab World's oil wealth. The United States is also imposing its hegemony on the Arabs through the so-called peace process which aims to perpetuate Israel's domination of the fate of the Arab World, added the writer. Amongst the nations of the world only the Arabs stand out as obedient to the "American master" and out of all nations, including the hungry Somalis, the Arabs seem to be totally humiliated by and totally subjugated to the American will, according to the writer. He urged the Arabs to learn from the lessons of Haiti, Somalia and Bosnia and throw off the yoke of hegemony and domination.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

By Dr. Fahed Al Fanek

What will be Jordan's economic peace dividends?

Normally, peace is a good thing to happen. Only arms suppliers may lose as a result of resolving dispute and this could be the case in the Middle East. However, we ourselves may be in for a disappointment, especially when it comes to our high expectations of peace dividends.

The public opinion was conditioned to believe that peace means economic prosperity, resulting from massive financial aid and foreign investments.

Of course the Palestinians under occupation will benefit. First of all they have nothing to lose, and they may have a lot in gain both politically and economically, but is that applicable to Jordan? My answer is no.

During the past 24 months, the Jordanian economy was taking off. Growth rate is anything between 6 and 12 per cent in real terms. The new set of circumstances, and the uncertainty that comes with it, will cause an interruption, which Jordan may need some time to recover from.

The indications are very obvious: The stock exchange witnessed a setback, prices dropped and turnover declined. Peace may be good for the Jordanian companies and may justify a rise of, say, 10 per cent in share prices, but the speculators have pushed the prices up by 25 per cent in anticipation of a fair deal. Apparently, the actual agreements were not up to expectations, and an adjustment of 15 per cent down looks reasonable as a correction.

Real estate market is almost at a standstill. Both buyers and sellers prefer to wait and see. They are not sure whether the impact of the interim agreement will be positive or negative. When one is not certain, things are put on hold for some time.

The banking system is equally confused: Would the creation of the Palestinian self-government give them an opportunity to branch out in the West Bank and Gaza, or would it close the window of opportunity as Palestinians may like to establish their own commercial banks? Since the know-how and the private capital are abundant, most likely the Palestinian government will encourage the foundation of new commercial and development banks which may seize part of the Palestinian deposits now in Jordanian banks. Moreover, banks are not sure whether to get ready for a boom and expansion phase or for an economic recession and the bad debts that come with it.

With an extensive economic development programme in the Palestinian autonomy, the West Bank may become a lucrative market for Jordanian exports. A Jordanian minister estimated that Jordanian exports to the West Bank can top \$300 million a year. The figure may be on the high side unless Jordan

supplies the West Bank and Gaza with their energy needs, but what is the use if the Israelis will continue to control the bridges and keep the West Bank as a captive market for Israeli products? It was leaked that Israel will permit Jordanian exports to the West Bank but impose a low ceiling of \$15 million a year or only 5 per cent of the potential market.

If the bridges continue to be open to Palestinian exports to Jordan, which reportedly has 60 per cent Israeli input, and if Jordan fails to convert the bridges into international borders with customs and passport posts, it is possible that the industrial in the West Bank, which will be in partnership with Israeli industrialists, will be at the expense of the Jordanian industry.

Of course, one can say that Jordan is an independent state and has a free hand to take measures and impose restrictions as may be necessary for the protection of Jordanian interests, but the real life experience proved that the Jordanian government will hesitate to take any timely action that may be criticised by the Palestinians, Americans or the Israelis. Yielding to pressure and attempting to be agreeable to all may cost Jordan dearly.

President Clinton called for an international donors' conference to raise funds to finance peace. It is worrying that the president did not care to mention Jordan, or for that matter Syria or Lebanon. Only the Israelis and Palestinians will be invited. It is only normal for Jordan to feel abandoned. Jordan played a constructive role in bringing about peace. It has borne the burden of Palestinian demographic waves in 1948, 1967 and 1991, yet its cooperation and sacrifices are not being appreciated by the international community in a meaningful manner.

Even debt relief of 50 per cent by the Paris Club, which was granted to Egypt and Poland, was not considered for Jordan. Jordan only got Mr. Clinton's vague promise of debt relief which is not exactly debt reduction.

To that we must add that even before the recent disappointing developments it was recognised by the pro-Israeli think-tanks in America and the promoters of peaceful settlement in the Middle East that Jordan has practically no major economic gains that may result from concluding a peace agreement and that any concessions that Jordan is required to make must be compensated generously.

Unfortunately, it seems that Jordan did everything possible and went out of its way to help, but got nothing in return and may stand to lose politically and economically, unless something is done to alter the current course of action or... inaction.

The political responsibility of intellectuals

By Dr. James Zogby

A few weekends ago, an Arab American organisation held its convention in Washington. Bringing together a number of Arab American and Arab academics and intellectuals, the conference was little more than a harsh three-day long attack on the Israel-PLO accords.

Most of the 100 or so attendees were sharply critical of the agreement and used terms like "object surrender," "tragedy" and "catastrophe" to describe it. Some of those who defended the accord were denounced as "collaborators," "apologists" or "opportunists."

As distressing as it was to hear the harsh rhetoric, what is more troubling is that these attacks are a function of a deeper malaise gripping many Arab and Arab American intellectuals, which derives from their lack of engagement in real political processes and their resultant self-marginalisation.

For example, while many of last weekend's speakers heaped abuse on the PLO for having agreed to the accord, not one of them offered a realistic political alternative.

We have witnessed many such sessions over the past number of years. I can recall going to conferences in the 1970s and 1980s and hearing paper after paper delivered on "U.S. Foreign Policy and the Middle East." The presentations were like a Bach fugue—infinitesimal variations on a single theme: the U.S. is an imperialist power and under the control of a Zionist lobby and, therefore, worthy of no more than condemnation.

The Arab and Arab American intellectuals in fashion back then were mostly Marxists of one stripe or another, and their criticisms reflected that language.

When, some time in the late 1970s, some Arab Americans began to organise politically in order to understand the workings of the U.S. political process and make changes in U.S. policy, the intellectuals distanced themselves from these efforts and remained unengaged. They were Marxists who had never read Marx. In his famous "Theses on Feuerbach," Marx wrote:

"The philosophers have, to this point, sought only to describe the world, in varying ways; the point, however, is to change it."

So, if U.S. policy was, in fact, what the critics of the 1980s said it was, their responsibility was to do something to

change this reality and not merely spend the 1980s and 1990s repeating their stale charges.

Being engaged in political processes is an imperative for intellectuals because there can be no real analysis without real practical experience. And it is this absence of involvement in political processes that produces the cynicism, the absolutism and, ultimately, the irrelevance of the so-called intellectuals.

For example, they denounce the Israel-PLO accords as a capitulation that was the result of an asymmetry of power. But what is their contribution to correcting this imbalance? It is in fact correct to observe that the accords are a function of an asymmetry of power and as such, represent the best possible result available to the Palestinians at this time. Further, conditions on the ground in and outside the Middle East strongly suggest that this time is the best available for at least the next generation or two for reaching any negotiated settlement.

To have refused to come to an agreement, the engaged Palestinian leadership would have created a situation that could only yield greater suffering for Palestinians under occupation and increased economic hardship for Palestinians dependent on the PLO's support.

These choices being unacceptable, the leadership acted. But the intellectuals, not responsible for the products of their thought, propose no political alternatives other than continued struggle in support of maximalist demands—without a care as to how much suffering would result from their abstract slogans.

Because they are unengaged in politics, their failure to achieve their absolutist demands produces cynicism and harsh name-calling of those who either disagree with their views or propose alternative political courses. And because they have not learned the lesson that can be learned only through engagement, that "politics is the art of the possible," they continue to pretend that their moralising desires about what "ought to be" and "what is fair" are anything more than the tragic-sounding whines that they really are.

Having said this, I state that there is a real role for Arab and Arab American intellectuals to play—but it must be based on real politics and must propose real alternatives, so that there can be a real debate over the future course of peace and U.S.-Arab relations.

We are, all of us, supporters and critics of the peace accords, operating in uncharted waters. Not having been in this situation before, we genuinely need a collective discussion to help us discover the new language and new priorities we must develop to address the new realities.

I do not believe that in the new circumstances of the post-cold war, and now, the post-peace accords world, the Arabs have to be the losers. But we may well lose ground in the competition with Israel if Arab intellectuals and analysts do not engage in an effort to formulate new policies that can help mold the new realities in a pro-Arab direction.

Absent such engagement, we have the current situation in which the Israelis are developing pro-active and creative approaches (to open diplomatic relations and commercial relations with Central Asia, Eastern Europe, and now several of the Muslim countries, and plans for Israeli involvement in the post-peace Arab East are evolving apace); while Arabs appear to be either paralysed or reactive, with their intellectuals and opposition-thinkers seemingly capable of no more than issuing denunciations or recasting outmoded cold war formulas.

I have recently read excellent analyses from two generations of Arab intellectuals. Muhammad Hassanain Haikal of Egypt and Rami Khouri of Jordan, though differing in their views, present the types of engaged intellectual analysis that this period requires. Their writings reflect an appreciation of reality and, at the same time, are inspired by visions of attainable future goals.

It is on this question of vision that I want to close. A leading Arab political figure once described to me what he felt were the prime requisites of leadership. They were, he said, power in reserve (meaning force and the capacity to use it when required) and communication (meaning the ability to always remain in contact with one's people). When an aide chimed in "and vision," the leader responded, "No, that is not so necessary."

This apparent refusal to consider vision, or future thinking, as central to leadership and the formation of policy is so clearly at the heart of the malaise of many Arab and Arab American intellectuals and political leaders. Political leadership, caught up as it is in the day to day struggle to implement poli-

cy, frequently finds it difficult to project a vision. But when both the intellectuals who support the leadership and those in opposition have no vision, this is a recipe for disaster.

We have laboured with this issue in the U.S. Much has been made of the Clinton administration's effort to define its vision of U.S. foreign and domestic policy in the post-cold war period. It is a difficult challenge for the new administration because it must define, in terms acceptable to the American people, our relationship with the world, the use and limits of our power, our national interests and our vision of how all this is to be brought about and the values we want to project in a changing world. And the administration must do all this while addressing immediate pressing needs: Somalia, Haiti, Bosnia, Russia and North America Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) on the foreign policy side; and the systemic problems of urban poverty, racism, the health care crisis, crime and violence and the staggering debt on the domestic side.

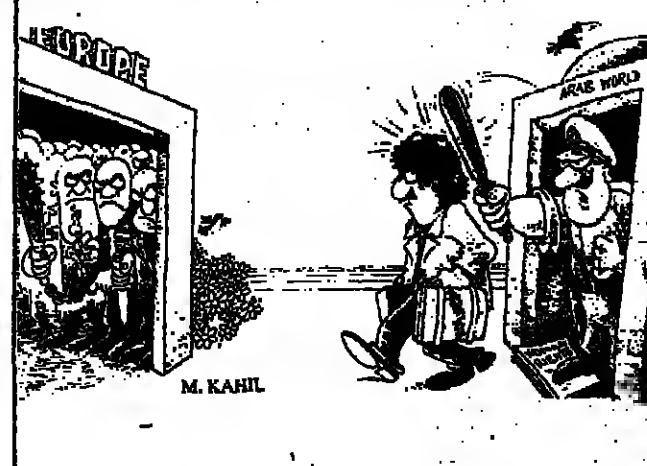
This debate over vision was central to the 1992 presidential election and has continued to develop since then. In fact, it was the absence of what Mr. Bush himself referred to as "the vision thing" that contributed to his defeat last November.

Mr. Clinton won and now must apply his vision, all the while modifying it to meet changing realities. But he knows that, if he is to succeed, he must construct and articulate a future course that can inspire and mobilise voters to support his policies.

While it may be fair to criticise Mr. Clinton's vision or to find it inadequate or inconsistently applied—it nonetheless exists and is being regularly presented by administration officials, discussed and constructively criticised by analysts and intellectuals. The debate is intense.

It was, in conclusion, the absence of this kind of debate that I found so troubling at a meeting of Arab and Arab American intellectuals. To either support or criticise an extant policy is easy. But to plot a future course, to know the kind of Palestine one wants to see in the next 10 years and to propose a realistic course of action that will lead to that end—that is what is required and has been, until now, so sorely missing.

The writer is president of the Washington-based Arab American Institute. He contributed this article to the Jordan Times.



The status of Palestinians in hosting Arab states

By Pascal B. Karmy

It seems that there is a misconception or ignorance on the part of some Arab quarters and most foreigners about the rights Palestinians enjoy in the host Arab states namely Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt and Iraq, where Palestinians took refuge in the aftermath of the 1948 war with Israel. I shall briefly try to explain the situation without delving into historical and legal details.

With regard to Palestinians in Jordan, the union of the West Bank with Jordan in 1950 had the effect of automatically granting Jordanian citizenship to any non-Jewish Palestinian who is habitually residing in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan as provided in Article 3 of the Jordanian Nationality Law of 1954 as amended. Consequently, all Palestinians who were habitually resident in Jordan, whether in the West Bank or in the East Bank, had absolutely the same rights as Jordanians, including of course political rights. Some Palestinians became prime ministers of Jordan or held important ministerial portfolios, such as the foreign affairs.

In Syria, Palestinians were initially allowed to work at odd private jobs and some were recruited as experts in various government departments or official public establishments. But their status was not legally and properly regulated until the promulgation of the Legislative Decree of 1956. This law stipulated that Palestinians residing in Syria shall enjoy the same rights as the Syrians with regard to employment in government ministries and departments and public establishments, as well as to work in the private sector, and shall be subject to military service provided that they shall retain their Palestinian nationality.

As a consequence of this law, Palestinians were employed everywhere in Syria and could, for example, register in the associations concerned as lawyers, doctors, engineers, merchants and could be appointed as representatives or directors of local or foreign companies and firms on the same footing as Syrians.

In accordance with the decision of the Arab League, they were granted a travel document known as "Document de Voyage", which is similar to a passport, to enable them to travel abroad. The same kind of document was granted by Lebanon, Egypt (especially to the inhabitants of Gaza Strip) and Iraq. This document was recognised by many western states, including the U.S. and the Eastern Europe states.

Many Palestinian refugees, holders of this document were able to travel or to immigrate to the U.S., Europe, Canada and South America. The Syrian law applies to Palestinians in the camps or outside them.

In accordance with the Syrian policy, the purpose of the provision in the above-mentioned Syrian law, as regards the retention of the Palestinian nationality, was to prevent the absorption of the Palestinians by the Syrian people; that is to say, to keep alive the Palestinian entity and existence, separate from the Syrian people, and thus put them on solid legal ground to claim repatriation to their homeland in accordance with U.N. Resolution 194 of 1947. This proviso will furthermore preclude Israel from ignoring the national rights of the Palestinians.

In Lebanon, Palestinians were also granted the Document de Voyage. They could work in the private sector or carry on business or own property provided they obtained the necessary permits or authorisations from the ministries concerned. In other words, they were treated as foreigners

residing in Lebanon. However, it must be pointed out that thousands of Palestinians who took refuge in Lebanon in 1948 and therefore were able to obtain the Lebanese nationality through the court or through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the ground that either their ancestors were Lebanese or they were considered as expatriates. But the majority retained their Palestinian nationality.

Lebanon cannot grant citizenship across the board to Palestinians living there because it will seriously and dangerously disturb the delicate sensitive balance of power between the sectarian and religious communities.

In Iraq, as from 1950, the Iraqi government granted Iraq passports to all Palestinians living there. They are being treated on equal footing with the Iraqis and thus enjoy the same rights as the latter, minus the political rights.

In Egypt, the Egyptian government granted the Document de Voyage to the thousands of Palestinians who took refuge there in 1948. They could work or carry on business or obtain property subject to obtaining the necessary permit or authorisation. During Abdul Nasser's regime, Palestinian students wherever they lived, were admitted to the Egyptian universities free of charge.

"Palestinians in Jordan enjoy much wider rights, including political rights, than those exercised in the other Arab countries. In effect, Palestinians in Jordan are Jordanians."

It can be concluded from the above that it is wrong to say in a sweeping manner that Palestinians in the host Arab countries cannot travel abroad, carry on business or own property. They can freely perform all those activities in Syria and Iraq without any impediment while in Lebanon and Egypt those activities are subject to permits or authorisations.

A comparison between the status of Palestinians in Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt and Iraq shows that in Jordan they enjoy much wider rights including political rights, than those exercised in the other Arab countries. In effect, Palestinians in Jordan are Jordanians. And this is an inevitable and natural result of the union of the West Bank with the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in 1950.

Had this union not been formed, perhaps Palestinians in Jordan would have enjoyed limited rights as in the other Arab host states. But since the union was achieved, it should draw the logical conclusion that equality of rights for all Jordanians, regardless of origin or descent, exists.

Finally, I shall quote from his Majesty King Hussein's nationwide address last month in which he says: "The strength of unity among the members of our one family regardless of origin or descent, their equality in rights and obligations in the most privileged part of the Arab homeland—all these are real foundations too sacred to be tampered with."

هناك مقال

The future of democracy in Palestine

Following is Professor Hisham Sharabi's address at the 26th Annual Convention of the Arab American University Graduates (AAUG) on Oct. 22. Mr. Sharabi is professor of European Intellectual History and Omar Al Mukhtar professor of Arab culture at Georgetown University in Washington and editor of the English language quarterly Journal of Palestine Studies.

Last month I visited Palestine for the first time in 46 years. I left Palestine before the fall, shortly after graduating from the American University of Beirut (AUB) in 1946 to pursue my studies at the University of Chicago. I went to see my home in the Ajami quarter, but I did not try to go in. My Jaffa was not the Jaffa I now saw; this was a surrealistic remnant of the city I knew. Nothing has changed and everything has changed. The truth I already knew was forcefully reconfirmed: memory can preserve itself only by keeping the present at bay.

The memory I wanted to preserve is of the Jaffa which some of you may know: of a gay, vibrant, bright, city, getting rapidly prosperous after the end of World War II on its world-famous oranges. Jaffa represented then the confident mood that prevailed throughout Palestine. Palestinians society was at that time a highly literate society, developing slowly into the kind of secular, modernising society the pioneers of the Arab Renaissance of the previous generation had envisioned for the entire Arab World.

My sad return to Jaffa made me experience the full tragedy that befell my hometown and the entirety of my country. It was as though an atom bomb had been dropped on Jaffa and obliterated it. Like Hiroshima, it was rebuilt. But unlike the now prosperous Japanese city, Jaffa never came back to life. Instead, another city, populated by another people, was created. The original inhabitants have simply disappeared; the few who remained or took refuge in it from the surrounding villages led a shadowy life in the ruined outskirts, reminders of the city no longer there.

The life that was interrupted nearly fifty years ago in Jaffa and in all of Palestine, can now be rebuilt. In this sense Palestine is still within reach. Travelling in Gaza and throughout the West Bank I felt the firm soil of Palestine under my feet and the warm Palestinian sun on my face. I had been told by friends who had visited the occupied territories that Jewish settlements were to be seen everywhere, on hill tops, along the main roads, close to wherever there was a Palestinian village or town. While this was certainly true of certain areas, particularly around Jerusalem and along the Ramallah-Nablus road, most of the settlements I saw appeared isolated and thinly populated, vulnerable enclaves rather than expanding outposts of a powerful settlement project. In contrast, the Arab towns and villages strewn across the countryside looked calm and serene, firmly rooted in and confidently blending with the landscape.

This was not the overcrowded space I had envisioned. It seemed capable of sustaining a much larger population than it now had, especially if traditional agriculture gives way to more modern techniques and high-tech industry replaced the old methods of manufacture. The problem should no longer be

expressed in the old economic framework but in terms of the political and economic decisions the new society will take in refashioning itself and its future.

I don't think there is much point in spending much time discussing the Oslo agreement and its various shortcomings. Most of those who support it and those who oppose it have much the same fears and reservations about it. Where they disagree is over what has been negotiated, signed and ratified.

I think we all agree that a far better agreement could have been negotiated. But even a better and more acceptable agreement would still have essentially the same framework, the one based on the National Palestine Council's 1988 resolution accepting the two-state solution and recognising Israel's right to exist, and one governing the peace process launched in Madrid in 1991. The difference between this agreement and a better one would have been in detail but not in basic structure.

The fact is we have been pushed into the water. But if we do not swim we will drown. What is the point in harping on what most of us do not dis-

agree with? Is there a realistic alternative to the course of action provided by this agreement, which has been enthusiastically endorsed by the international community and accepted, albeit reluctantly and with many reservations, by the majority of Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza, according to recent polls?

Rejection of the agreement may appear to some the proof of ideological purity, to others it may be psychologically the most satisfying decision to take. But it is a Ouxiotic position at best, and could be regarded as callous when the majority of the Palestinians who have carried the burden of the struggle over all these years have chosen to take the risk of the fair accomplish. It is clear that Palestinian rejection this time will cause the world to turn its back to us and forget there is a Palestinian problem, leaving us and the Israelis to settle our differences alone.

Probably the only logical, though in my opinion suicidal, alternative is the one put forward by the fundamentalists: all or nothing. And this is an alternative which the majority has also rejected.

The question should not be whether the PLO should enter negotiations on the basis of the agreement but whether the PLO, given its history of corruption and ineptness, can handle such a huge task and what should be done to steer it or push it in the right direction.

We talk today about human rights, basic freedoms, democracy. What do these concepts mean to the Palestinian people who over the last half century have been uprooted and dispersed, and their society crushed? These concepts certainly mean to them a great deal more than they do to people who already enjoy security and a stable social order. Having to start from scratch, the Palestinians want to build a free, humane and democratic Palestine. They will not be satisfied, for example with just the slogans of, but will want truly free elections in which no one will be elected by 99 per cent of the vote. They also want to do what no Arab regime has been able to achieve since independence: not only to award women full rights and equality but also to honour Palestinian women, by acknowledging their unique

and heroic role in the intifada and the struggle for national survival. What happened in Algeria will not be allowed to happen in Palestine. What happened in Algeria shall not be allowed to happen in Palestine.

As they rebuild society the Palestinians also have to build their state. No free society in the modern age can endure without state sovereignty. The West Bank and Gaza will remain just a geographic expression and the Palestinian people only "inhabitants" or "residents" or refugees until the state of Palestine is established. One glance at what is happening in the Balkans, in the former Soviet Union and in many other parts of the world, will convince us of how crucial statehood is for the survival of small peoples.

For the Palestinians, especially crucial is building a state firmly based on the rule of law. This is of the utmost importance, for the alternative would only be another version of patriarchal authority, for which democracy and human rights are merely manipulatory slogans. In short, just another mukhabarat state.

Unfortunately, the way things are going does not inspire much optimism. Two examples: Reporting from Amman earlier this month, Middle East International correspondent, Lamis Andoni describes how what she calls the "chaotic" working practices of the PLO were affecting its effectiveness in dealing with the post-agreement situation on the ground.

The leadership's delay in forming committee to discuss details of the Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho and the responsibilities of the elected council have had more to do with the chaotic working practices and lack of preparedness that characterise the PLO. Furthermore, the leadership seems to be deliberately delaying the process. It hopes thereby both to secure a bigger role in administering the funds for the occupied territories and to ensure victory in the elections.

And she adds: "Many fear that (the leadership) might simply move the degenerating PLO institutions to the territories lock, stock and barrel, without either new blood or organisational reform."

consensus that would yield political results. Political pressure is possible only when criticism is translated into specific demands.

In the West Bank and Gaza I learned of different informal groups forming, within the various organisations, among independents, in the women's movement. In this country, the same could happen in the Palestinian-American and Arab-American communities. Groups and individuals forging demands on specific issues and making substantive appeals, directly or through the media can influence events and shape decision-making.

In concluding, I would like to underscore two issues I have indirectly alluded to: the woman question and Islamic fundamentalism.

Without confronting these two problems openly and directly, Arab society, including Palestinian society, will not be able to carry out the radical social change to enable it to deal with the modern world and to enter the 21st century.

The evasiveness and hypocrisy with which even progressive and secular males have treated the woman question can only bring shame on Arab manhood. The essential precondition of liberating the Arab society, including the Arab male himself, is by the politicisation of the women question, that is, by making it a central issue in the struggle for building a new society in Palestine and in the Arab World as a whole.

As for the Muslim fundamentalists, we refuse to deal with them as enemies. They are not enemies but patriots who have laid down their lives for the liberation of Palestine. The way to deal with militant Islam is certainly not through repressive confrontation, as some Arab regimes have chosen to do, but through dialogue and mutual accommodation. The Palestinians will never accept to be an instrument in the West's war against Islam.

This is why progressive and secular Palestinians should insist on the centrality of these two questions. For on their proper solution will depend not only the kind of society that will be rebuilt in Palestine, but the future and role of Arab and Muslim civilisation in the world.

Only open criticism and debate can generate the kind of

form.

Yusef Ibrahim, the Egyptian correspondent of the New York Times reporting from Tunis last week, described the same situation this way:

"Senior (Palestinian) officials spoke of their concern that the leadership... was moving too slowly in putting the right people in charge."

"There is also some criticism of (the) tendency, in the words of a senior executive, to 'favour trust over competence', by placing loyalists in important positions and ignoring talented but outspoken Palestinians who may question the leadership's absolute authority."

And he adds: "The competition for posts in the coming Palestinian administration in Jericho has hampered the PLO's ability to communicate with the outside world as rivals are consumed in settling accounts with one another."

What is to be done? More specifically, what can we do here in the United States.

First of all, we must remember that what the Palestinian-American and Arab-American community says and does carries much more weight in Palestine and the Arab World than most of us think. The following thoughts may be useful to consider.

If most of us, particularly the intellectuals, professionals, business people, students and academics continue to restrict their comments and criticisms to private discussions and social gatherings, while maintaining in public neutral or non-committal, or at best, mildly reproachful attitudes, we should have no one but ourselves to blame for not being taken seriously. In these critical times, only by stepping up and taking a clear position can we make our voice heard and make those in charge take us seriously.

The only way Palestinians, inside and outside of Palestine, can fight for democracy is by engaging in democratic practices: in exercising the freedom of speech and criticism without fear, in holding public meetings, in setting up teach-ins, in organising panel discussions, when it becomes necessary, in taking to the street and demonstrating.

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Volunteer groups working to help Palestinians help themselves

By Rosalind Mandine Murphy

WASHINGTON — International private voluntary organisations (PVOs) are looking to help build social service capabilities and development expertise in the West Bank and Gaza and eventually put themselves "out of business," Bruce Stanley, director of AMIDEAST's development programme in the occupied territories, said Nov. 4.

One problem PVOs are now facing in this regard, however, is the lack of guidelines from the Palestinian leadership, said Mr. Stanley, who is based in Jerusalem and currently on a visit to Washington. He was addressing a luncheon audience at the Centre for Policy Analysis on Palestine.

Mr. Stanley reviewed the role of PVOs in Palestinian development in the wake of the Sept. 13 signing of the Declaration of Principles between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

AMIDEAST is a private, non-profit organisation promoting understanding and cooperation between the United States and the Middle East through education, information and development programmes.

PVOs are now contending with fast-paced political changes, new priorities and sources of funding and shifting relationships with the Israeli authority and the emerging Palestinian authority in the West Bank and Gaza, Mr. Stanley noted.

PVOs in the area are "struggling to understand where we fit in this new situation," he said. While a changing role is inevitable, PVOs are hoping to restructure themselves in order "to make a difference" to the Palestinian people, he stressed.

Once a Palestinian authority is in place, PVOs will have a "more restrictive" role, particularly in policy-making, Mr. Stanley said. He noted that PVOs have long played a role in establishing development policy in the area through the projects they have initiated and funded. This function eventually will be transferred to the Palestinian authority.

However, PVOs expect to continue to nurture emerging Palestinian institutions and help them "improve services to the Palestinian community," Mr. Stanley said. "International PVOs also expect to con-

tinues to defend the position of local voluntary organisations in their relations with the authorities and donor governments... they expect to have some input on human capital resources, such as providing training and information," Mr. Stanley added.

For the present, however, PVOs see themselves in a transitional phase. PVOs must begin the process of transferring their roles over to the Palestinian authority and yet hold onto some of their present responsibilities during a transitional period, Mr. Stanley said.

PVOs are trying to balance their "questions about the Palestinian administration's capabilities under difficult circumstances" with their long-held commitment to Palestinian self-determination, he said.

Do PVOs transfer all responsibilities to the Palestinian authority? Do PVOs keep a tight hold on funding development work in the West Bank and Gaza? These are questions PVOs are asking themselves at present, Mr. Stanley said. The answers to these questions for the most part "are in the middle."

The focus now is to "move to build local capabilities and put ourselves out of business," Mr. Stanley said. In the future, international PVOs "will be involved primarily as funding organisations."

In the hopes of shortening the transitional phase, there is a renewed commitment to training, particularly in management and public administration, he said. PVOs must help the new authority create "well functioning Palestinian institutions assessing Palestinian needs," he said.

Mr. Stanley bemoaned the "lack of input from the Palestinian leadership," which he claimed is "hindering current efforts to formulate a new role for PVOs in the West Bank and Gaza."

PVOs, he said, have received "little guidelines from the Palestinian leadership... At present, PVOs have taken the initiative and sponsored conferences and meetings to discuss their future role."

"There is no aggression on the other side to set an agenda for us. We would encourage an aggressive dialogue," with the Palestinian leadership, he said — United States Information Agency.

Australia's warm waters produce world's finest pearls

By Robert Holloway
Agence France Presse

BROOME, Australia — There are three things to look for in a pearl, expert Glenice Munro said: "Lustre, more lustre and yet more lustre."

In a poetic crescendo, the Australian Concise Oxford

Dictionary defines lustre as "gloss, refulgence... brilliance, radiant beauty."

More down-to-earth, Ms. Munro explained that lustre is caused by "the refraction of light through layers of pearl matter, the thicker the pearl the more lustrous."

Up to 18 millimetres in dia-

meter, pearls grown by huge Pinctada Maxima oysters in the warm waters off northwest Australia are the largest and considered the finest in the world.

"Japan is the leading producer of pearls, but theirs are a different species and grow from three to eight millimetres," said Ms. Munro. "Broome produces much smaller quantities," she went on.

"We have a waiting list of three years for people who want to add one pearl to a strand. You cannot put just any pearls together; you have to match them for size and lustre."

Two years ago, a strand of 29 western Australian pearls set a record when it was sold at auction in New York for \$1.2 million.

Half a dozen necklaces each year fetch more than \$500,000, contributing to an export industry which the state government says is worth \$3 million Australian dollars (\$59 million) annually.

European Australians discovered pearls here in 1861 and until World War I they used, first aboriginal skindivers, then suited and helmeted Japanese divers to work the oyster beds from boats called luggers.

Al Ahd seeks to form coalition

(Continued from page 1)

Ajloun, Mifteh Raheimi of Jerash, Rafeh Al Saud of Tafleh and Mr. Majali of Karak.

Mr. Majali, Mr. Qudah and Mr. Raheimi won the highest number of votes in their districts. Mr. Raheimi and Mr. Qudah sat next to Mr. Majali during Saturday's press conference but made no comments to the press.

Mr. Saud of Tafleh, the fourth Al Ahd deputy-elect, was not present at the press conference.

Al Ahd members will form the nuclei of the coalition. Four right-of-centre parties, in addition to Al Ahd won seats in Jordan's 12th parliament.

Ishaq Al Farah, a deputy-elect from Madaba, is a member of the Jordan National Alliance (JNA), Hammad Abu Jamous who won a seat in the First district of Amman is a founding member of the Al Mustakhal Party, Yagatha party secretary-general Abdul Raouf Al Rawabdeh successfully retained his Irbid seat, and the Homeland Party's founding member Mohammed Al Thuweib won a seat in Amman's Second District.

According to sources close to Mr. Rawabdeh, he is not expected to join the coalition. The coalition is expected to

include some members of the three bedouin districts represented by six deputies, as well as at least one deputy from the Ramtha and Beni Kenana district, informed sources said.

Mr. Majali did his best at Saturday's encounter with the press to keep the public guessing about who and how many members the coalition would have. He kept the door open for any deputy-elect to join.

"As you know the winning candidates were mostly those not associated with any political party," he said. "The alliance or coalition currently being formed will be open to all deputies of the centre which represent the vast majority of the new Parliament. Members of other parties and independent deputies are invited to join, Mr. Majali added.

Most of the political and economic programmes of the coalition members are expected to focus on decentralisation, job creation in the deprived regions and a change in the Election Law that would allow members of the Armed Forces to vote. Support for the peace process is expected to be among their demands.

Mr. Majali said the coalition would most likely field a candidate for the House speakership position but did not reveal if he himself would be running.

Congratulations

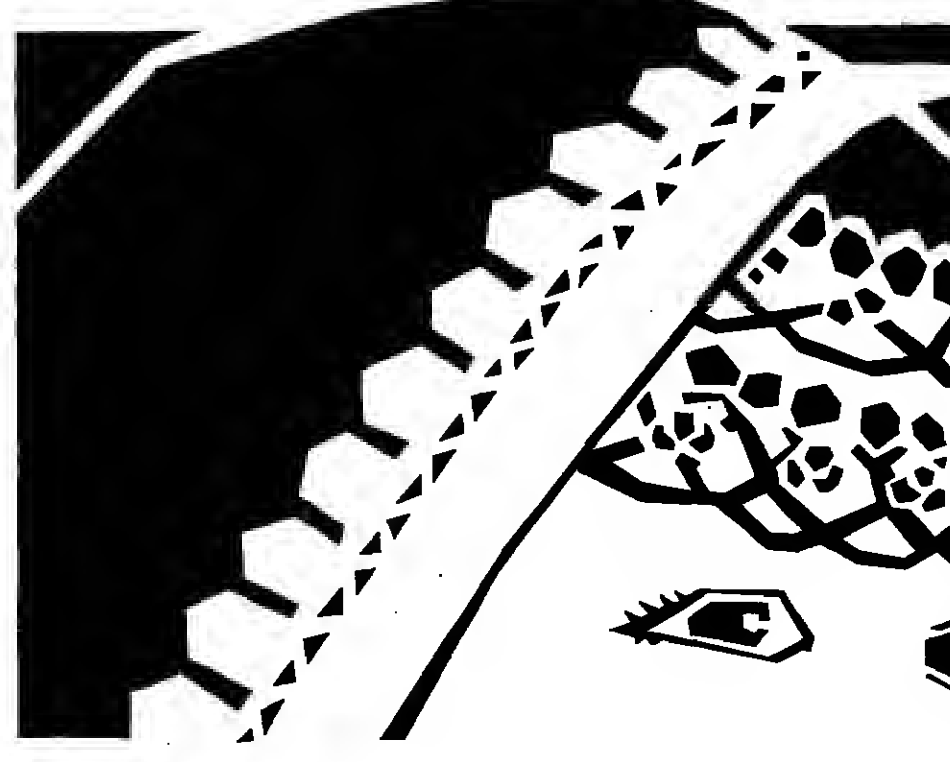
to
HIS MAJESTY KING HUSSEIN
and the people of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

ON
HIS MAJESTY'S BIRTHDAY



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Russia to keep restrictions on foreign banking

It also appeared to be concerned about "the impact of selling petrol stations on

The government has said privatisation, cuts in the generous oil-funded welfare state and encouraging Kuwaitis to forsake the overstaffed public sector for private business are

"We aim at giving them the chance to exhibit their services away from foreign competition which has intensified lately to attract the same clientele base. Our objective is to show the

Sbeikh Suhaih said he wanted to boost public awareness of a growing range of Kuwaiti investment products. These were being created to fulfil opportunities flowing from a gradual liberalisation of the banking system and a modest revival in the stock ex-

Sheikh Suoaih said he expected more such funds would be launched in coming months.

Several senior government officials including First Deputy Prime Minister Yegor Gaidar agreed on the need to limit foreign banking operations in Russia which could have "dangerous consequences" if allowed to expand unchecked,

"The white paper (policy document) exercise is very risky because it obliges us to enter highly political territory," Pascal Lamy, chief aide to Commission President Jacques Delors, told a seminar on the bloc's economic and jobs crisis.

The commission has suggested that one way of paying for both the reduction in employment taxes needed to persuade firms to compensate workers for loss of income would be to tax polluters, energy and capital more heavily. Commission sources, however, accepted that proposals to tax the carbon content

EC Employment Commissioner Pádraig Flynn has proposed penslising overtime work to create more jobs.

Rouble crashes as Uzbeks get ready for new money

Malaysian

Mr. Sbushkevich said forcing a common financial system with Russia would generate spin-offs in investment and help Belarus cope better with reforms.

Officials newspapers Saturday said that 5,000 and 10,000 rouble notes were to be removed from circulation, caus-

Russia declared all pre-1993 banknotes invalid on its territory in July in a move tanta-

Wages have not been raised to keep pace with inflation.

government on giving foreign banks greater access to the Russian banking sector was "very delicate and important for the national economy" but added he opposed quickly lifting all restrictions on foreign

The newspaper said five more foreign banks, including Citibank and Chase Manhattan, were recently awarded licenses to operate in Russia.

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY NOVEMBER 14, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Richter Foundation

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Your knowledge of business matters is not sufficient to riches and efficiently handle the

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You are just as fixed in your standpoint as an associate you are trying to do

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You have all kinds of apparent blockages in this way of doing and tasks or

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) There are many ple-

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Consider well matters of your residence and make a

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Show your ability at smoothing the ruffled feathers of an

and you are helpful.

Malaysian finance minister presents 'sorcerer's budget'

"It's a bit of financial sorcery that can only happen when you get eight per cent growth for five or six consecutive years."

The budget cuts company income taxes to 32 per cent in 1994 and to 30 per cent in 1995, increases spending on infrastructure projects by 16 per cent, and reduces import

three per cent of the workforce, Malaysia basically is in full employment, and must worry about an overheating economy, Mr. Anwar said.

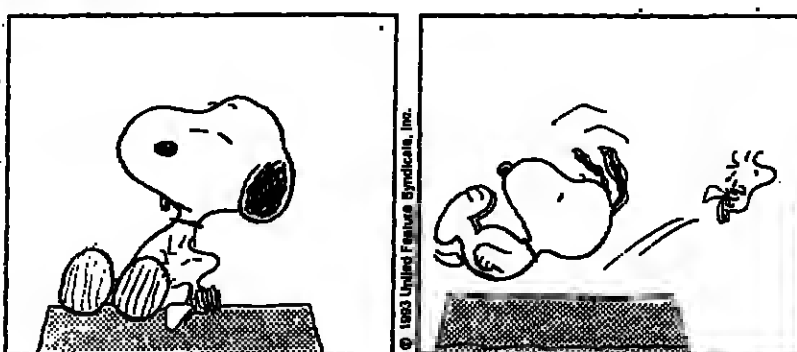
"Inflation continues to be of concern in view of the tight

has jumped more than 50 per cent from 632.83 at the beginning of the year to 971.99 at the close of trading last month. "The cautious budget provides breathing space for economic activity to move at its

Labour unions and women's groups applauded the tax breaks for employers who provide child care centres for their

the state-owned Petronas oil company said in a statement. "We are now looking at a less bullish oil price prospect, at least in the next five to 10 years, compared to the outlook during the 1980s."

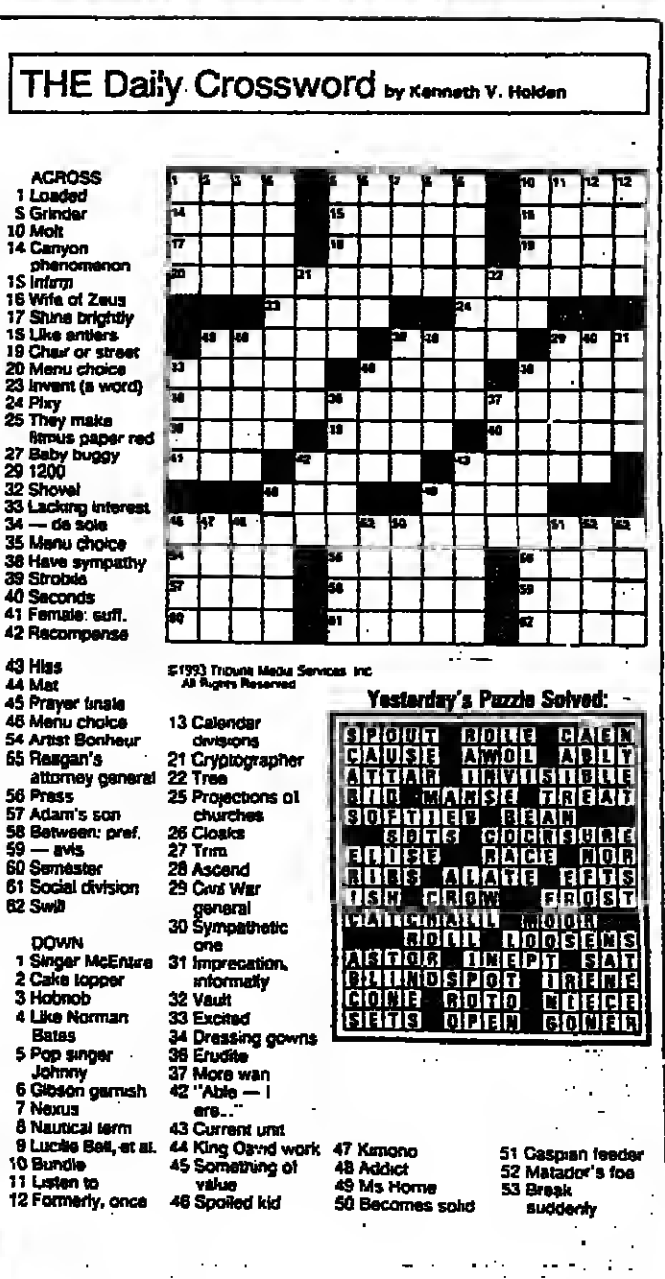
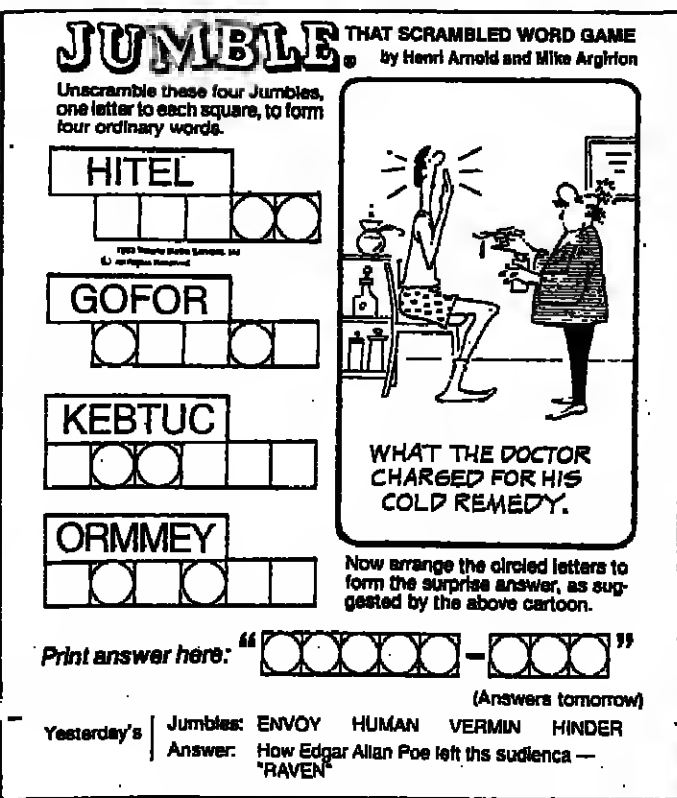
Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



Sri Lankan troops reinforce besieged northern military base

COLOMBO (R) — Sri Lankan reinforcements linked up with troops defending a strategic military base besieged by Tamil rebels in the northern Jaffna peninsula Saturday, a military spokesman said.

Some 250 soldiers and sailors have been killed and 150 are missing according to military sources after three days of heavy fighting at the Pooneryn Camp, scene of the army's worst setback in the decade-long war with separatists.

"The reinforcements have linked up with a group of about 700 people," said military spokesman Brigadier Nalin Angammana. He said they were looking for a second group of troops at the camp.

Brig. Angammana said the landing had not met with any resistance from the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

They have gone away from that area," Brig. Angammana said. He said fighting had subsided around the camp on the shores of the Jaffna lagoon.

"Once the reinforcements have stabilised we will send more in," he said.

Earlier Saturday, about 100 troops landed by sea and air at Pooneryn, Brig. Angammana said the first group landed by sea west of Pooneryn and set up a beachhead. The others would now follow he said about 1,400 men were defending the camp.

Reinforcements could not be sent earlier because of fierce rebel resistance and had weather.

The Defence Ministry said troops had been back three attempts to penetrate deeper into the base Friday night.

"Technical sources indicate that the LTTE... has lost about 400 cadres up to now, which includes some senior cadres," it said in a statement.

imagination," the state-owned Daily News quoted a military official as saying.

Defence analysts said the fall of Pooneryn could give the rebels unhindered access across the lagoon to the mainland from their stronghold in the peninsula.

More than 30,000 people have been killed in the conflict since 1983. Political analysts say the war cannot be won militarily and a political solution must be negotiated.

Several attempts at peace talks, the last in 1990, have failed and suspicion and mistrust has built up on both sides.

The Tigers, with an estimated fighting strength of between 5,000 and 10,000, control much of the north where most of the Tamils live. The army is stronger in the east of the island, which has a mixed population of Tamils, Sinhalese and Muslims.

Unwanted patients marooned by Bosnian fighting

SARAJEVO (R) — A Croat and Serb offensive marooned hundreds of unwanted children, mental patients and bedridden sick in two Muslim front line hospitals in central Bosnia Saturday.

Canadian U.N. peacekeepers said medical staff had stopped work and that no one had offered refuge to the patients at Fojnica and Bakovici, although the Muslim-led Bosnian army had begun to evacuate its civilians during the night.

With temperatures plunging in the region, the main U.N. aid agency reported desperate conditions in the besieged Muslim town of Olovo where a few hundred civilian survivors have received no outside food or aid for two months.

The plight of the communities symbolised the suffering of civilian populations in central Bosnia as the second winter of the civil war began to take serious grip and fighting for territory continued.

U.N. aid distribution has been at a standstill in the region since a Danish driver was killed three weeks ago, although the Bosnian and Croatian governments agreed Friday to allow two relief convoys to cross battle zones.

Caoadiao and Daoish peacekeepers equipped with armour and infantry were put on alert Saturday morning to aid the Fojnica and Bakovici hospitals if necessary.

There are 576 patients trapped in the hospitals five kilometres apart in freezing mountains west of Sarajevo.

They are on the front line of a northward offensive launched by Bosnian Croats with Serb help to secure links with Croat-held Vitez and Kiseljak.

Mortar bombs and shells have exploded this week in the grounds of the Bakovici Hospital, trapped in a valley between the two sides, despite U.N. efforts to protect it.



A Bosnian child is carried on a stretcher by U.N. soldiers to board a U.N. flight out of Sarajevo. (AFP photo)

ters in nearby Visoko: "The only real option is to get the belligerents to stop firing at the goddam thing."

Only 200 of the inmates of the two hospitals can walk. The others are bedridden or in wheelchairs or lying. Sixty of the total are children.

The United Nations is also trying to protect 135 Croat civilians covering in a basement in Fojnica in fear of reprisals by Muslims who still control the town.

At Olovo, 60 kilometres northeast of Fojnica, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said Serb bombardments had forced all but a few hundred of the 5,000 pre-war population to flee.

Some 300 of the inhabitants told a UNHCR team which visited Olovo Thursday that they escaped there from the surrounding area after looting and raping by marauding Bosnian Serbs.

"The refugees were extremely stressed and repeatedly broke down in tears as they told their tales," a UNHCR spokesman said. "We had no way of independently verifying reports of atrocities but they all told similar and consistent stories."

In Sarajevo, the United Nations feared a new confrontation between Muslim and Serb forces on Mount Igman, which overlooks the Bosnian capital.

U.N. spokesman Idesbald Van Biesebroeck said the problem was caused by Muslims moving their positions too close to Serb lines.

"The Serbs have warned that they could react with cannon fire, artillery and mortars," he added.

A small U.N. peacekeeping force is stationed between the two sides on the mountain, which was a main Muslim supply route into Sarajevo until Serbs captured it during the summer.

Russian envoy Italy Churkin met members of the Bosnian leadership in Sarajevo to discuss ways of reviving peace talks between the three sides in the conflict.

7-year-old brings gun to school in knapsack

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — A seven-year-old boy brought a loaded 9mm semiautomatic pistol to class in his knapsack at a San Francisco elementary school, officials said. The second-grade student at Commodore Stockton Elementary School boasted to companions during morning recess Thursday that he had a gun in his backpack, according to police officer David Boyett, who was called to the school. Other children alerted teachers, who found the gun, locked it in the principal's closet and called police. Officer Boyett said one bullet was in the chamber and seven bullets were in the gun's magazine. If the safety catch had been knocked off and the trigger pulled, eight shots could have been fired, he said. "Thank God, no one was hurt," he said. Police are investigating how the gun found its way into the knapsack. News reports quoted school officials as saying the gun was believed to belong to a relative of the child, whose name was not released. School principal Helen Chin said the child never took the gun out of the backpack, no one was hurt and there was no danger to the 740 children at the school.

Boston police make arrest in old murder case

BOSTON (AP) — A man wanted for a slaying that occurred nearly 25 years ago was arrested after detectives located him by playing with combinations of names he was known to use. Earl J. Clark, 49, was arrested Wednesday in Dayton, Ohio, where he had lived for the past 15 years. He had been using the name Stacey E. Griffin for the past 24 years, since soon after the Feb. 22, 1969, killing of Carl Carrethers. Detective Lt. Stephen Murray said two factors led to finding Mr. Clark. "We started to play alphabet soup with the different names he was known to use. His nickname was Stacey and his mother's name was Griffin. We tried different combinations of the name in every state in the country," he said. Lt. Murray said the "cold case" squad, which specialises in long-unresolved murders, also found out Mr. Clark had served in the military and was able to get a set of his fingerprints from the Defence Department. The prints matched with the Stacey E. Griffin in the death of Mr. Carrethers, 24, said Capt. Edward J. McNeely, homicide unit commander.

Wedding surprise thwarted at Canadian border

ST STEPHEN, New Brunswick (R) — Royce Smith's hope of surprising his girlfriend with a wedding proposal was derailed at the Canadian border when customs officials seized his hidden engagement ring. Mr. Smith, of Gardiner, Maine, was forced to pop the question to his tearful fiancée with a border guard watching. Then he was told it would cost him \$730 in penalties and duties to get the ring back. Mr. Smith was crossing the border last week from Calais, Maine, with his girlfriend Allison Teed, a Canadian citizen, when customs officials searched the car and discovered the \$1,400 ring hidden in a bag. Mr. Smith said Thursday he tried to explain to the guard that he had not declared the ring at the border because he intended to surprise Teed. "A proposal is supposed to be something you'll remember for the rest of your life," said Mr. Smith. "We'll remember this, but at the way we might want to."

Lions cold, hungry in cash-strapped Russian zoo

MOSCOW (R) — A private zoo in the Russian city of Chelyabinsk has run so short of money that its lions are threatened with death from cold and hunger, ITAR-TASS news agency said Saturday. It quoted a local newspaper as saying the animals were being kept in a hastily-built enclosure made from wooden boards and slats, and the director of the private company was short of money for heating and food. A local bank in the Ural city had donated cash when it found out about the lions' plight. "But this money is not enough for the whole winter and the newspaper is appealing to nature lovers to help the hapless private businessmen save the animals," TASS said.

Bhutto nominee wins Pakistani presidential vote

ISLAMABAD (R) — Legislators elected Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's nominee, Foreign Minister Farooq Leghari, as Pakistan's new president Saturday with an overwhelming majority.

Initial counting in the complicated voting system gave Mr. Leghari 275.5 votes to 167 for his opponent, acting President Wasim Sajjad, the candidate of Ms. Bhutto's arch-rival and predecessor Nawaz Sharif.

"This is an hour of great victory," a jubilant Bhutto told reporters after voting by the electoral college of legislators from the National Assembly (lower house), Senate and four provincial assemblies.

"The election of Mr. Leghari as president for five years is a vindication of our struggle to establish democracy and return stability to the country," Ms. Bhutto said.

The voting had been the first real test of strength for Ms. Bhutto's fledgling coalition government that took office last month after her Pakistan People's Party (PPP) emerged as the largest party in fiercely fought general elections.

Results from the four provincial assemblies were still being calculated but in the southern province of Sindh, Mr. Leghari won 59 votes to 1.5 for Mr. Sajjad.

In Punjab, initial results showed the foreign minister had taken a lead of 10 votes while in Baluchistan the voting ended in a dead heat, officials said. Mr. Sajjad scraped to a win in the North West Frontier Province. Each province has 43 votes.

Empowered to dissolve parliament, the president is one of the informal triumvirate, with the prime minister and army chief, that runs the country.

Diplomats say Ms. Bhutto asked the widely respected deputy leader of the PPP to run for president to ensure her government, Pakistan's third in five years, has a better chance of completing its five-year term.

The Oxford-educated Leghari, a feudal and tribal leader from the fringes of lawless Baluchistan, told Reuters Friday he would put party politics behind him and act as an

impartial head of state, ready to seek consensus with the opposition and to guard his own powers.

"I would reach out if I'm elected to all political forces, all interest groups, all citizens, and bring them together to work for Pakistan," Mr. Leghari said. "No one should be excluded from that."

Mr. Leghari, 53, is Ms. Bhutto's most trusted confidant and a protégé of her father, Pakistan's first popularly elected Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. He became the leading contender after four other candidates pulled out late Thursday.

Legislators voted in the old National Assembly Hall, dusted off for the occasion after the parliament building was gutted by fire Tuesday.

Ms. Bhutto dismissed fears that a PPP president and prime minister would result in an authoritarian administration.

"The PPP has always fought against repression," she said. "We expect Farooq Leghari to be as good as anyone and to be impartial," said Sartaj Aziz, secretary general of Sharif's

Pakistan Muslim League (PML).

Mr. Leghari said he would welcome an attempt by the government to remove the martial law-era constitution amendment that empowers the president to dismiss a government.

The previous president, Ghulam Ishaq Khan, twice exercised the president's controversial power to dissolve parliament — once to sack Ms. Bhutto after just 20 months in office in 1990 and again in April to get rid of Mr. Sharif's government.

"This sword of Damocles hanging over the parliament of presidential dissolution must be removed," said Mr. Leghari, who spent a total of four years in prison during the 1977-83 rule as president of General Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq.

"We've had the office of president used to subvert the constitution, to unsettle government," Mr. Leghari said. "The time has come for stability, for political unity and economic development."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Haiti minister challenges army's power

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (R) — Haitian Defence Minister Jean Belotte told transigent army officers he had legitimate power and challenged them to have him arrested, as they had threatened. Responding to a letter in which the army's chief of staff threatened Mr. Belotte with "prison for 10 days starting the day you leave your post," the defence minister shot back, saying he was the legitimate boss. "I must remind you that you are not the chief of a military government and I am not the defence minister in your military government," Mr. Belotte wrote in a letter to army leader Lieutenant-General Raoul Cedras. "Tomorrow you can arrest me... but remember I have and always will have legitimacy." Mr. Belotte said in the letter, which was read out on Haitian radio. In correspondence dated Nov. 8, army hardliner Brigadier General Philippe Biamby called the retired general a "coward" and "a permanent threat to the institution." He also accused Mr. Belotte of "having a plan to destroy the armed forces."

Actor River Phoenix 'died from drugs'

LOS ANGELES (R) — Actor River Phoenix had lethal levels of cocaine and morphine in his body when he died after collapsing outside a Hollywood nightclub last month, a coroner's spokesman said Friday. Scott Carrier said Phoenix, who had previously been known as a clean living, strict vegetarian, died of "acute multiple drug intoxications." "The manner of death is ruled as accidental," said Mr. Carrier, spokesman for the Los Angeles County Coroner's office. Mr. Carrier said the young star's body also contained valium and marijuana. Phoenix, 23, who first received public acclaim in 1986 in the coming-of-age movie, Stand By Me, and who received an Academy Award nomination for his work in the 1988 film, Running On Empty, collapsed outside the Viper room nightclub shortly after midnight on Oct. 31 and died in a hospital less than an hour later. Phoenix was attending a Halloween party at the popular club, which is part-owned by actor Johnny Depp and is frequented by young Hollywood stars, when he started having massive seizures, according to police reports.

China warns Taiwan on hijackers

BEIJING (AFP) — The Chinese government warned Saturday that Taiwan would pay "serious consequences" unless it changed its policy and returned the hijackers of seven planes to the island since April. The State Council's Taiwan Affairs Office, in a statement read on state-run television, said Taiwan's policy of holding on to hijackers for trial violated agreements and endangered air travellers, including those from Taiwan. Unless Taiwan changed the policy, it said, "the Taiwan authorities would be held responsible for all the serious consequences arising from them." Separately, Chinese police said the hijackers of the seventh plane were "debt dodgers," and rejected their claims of having joined the 1989 pro-democracy movement. "Sources from the Public Security Ministry said that the hijackers fled to Taiwan in order to escape from debts and their own financial calamities on the mainland," the official Xinhua News Agency reported.

Police seek to scare voters — Mandela

OHLANGE, South Africa (R) — ANC leader Nelson Mandela alleged Saturday police were seeking to scare away non-white voters in South Africa's first all-race poll in April. Mr. Mandela, kicking off campaigning in volatile Natal province, told several thousand supporters gathered at a dusty football ground that President F.W. de Klerk and the Internal Stability Unit (ISU) riot police were waging war against them. "Although Mr. de Klerk is in discussions with us he is actually waging a war against our people," Mr. Mandela said at a rally in a poor squatter area 20 kilometres north of Durban. "It is a unit which wages war against our people. The purpose of the ISU is to frighten blacks and Indians away from the poll," the African National Congress (ANC) leader added. The ANC

has often accused police of racism and abuses against blacks. Mr. Mandela said Saturday the ANC would demand the unit be withdrawn from black townships and replaced by black police.

Anti-siege protest paralyses Kashmir

SRINAGAR, India (AFP) — A protest strike against an army siege of Kashmir's holiest mosque here paralysed normal activity in the northern Indian state for the third straight day Saturday, residents said. Cars, private buses and cargo haulers remained off the streets in Srinagar, and shops and market-places shut down in line with the general strike called by the all-party Kashmir Freedom conference, the residents said. The conference, a forum of 27 militant and political parties opposed to Indian rule over Kashmir, is also spearheading a drive against the siege of the Hazratbal Shrine by Indian army and paramilitary troops that began Oct. 15. Police said a curfew clamped on this state summer capital, as well as in the southern Kashmiri district of Shopian and Anantnag, was lifted Saturday to enable people to stock up on food and other essentials.

Russia plans new security unit

MOSCOW (R) — Russia's Security Ministry is proposing to create a special new unit to counter the activities of extremist groups posing as political parties, a senior official said Saturday. "In the anti-terrorism department we propose to create a new unit whose duties would include detecting, preventing and suppressing the anti-constitutional activity of extremist groups posing as political parties and social movements," First Deputy Security Minister Sergei Stepanov said. He told the newspaper Rossiyskaya Gazeta in an interview that President Boris Yeltsin had personally underlined the importance of improving intelligence on extremist groups. Mr. Stepanov said there would be changes to the work of the Security Ministry — formerly the KGB security police — but no "purge" of its employees. The ministry's role has come under close scrutiny in recent months. Its former head, Viktor Baranikov, was sacked by Mr. Yeltsin in July and has since been jailed as an alleged leader of an armed revolt against the president in October.

Berlin rail line reopens

BERLIN (R) — Berlin's oldest underground rail line, divided for three decades by Europe's East-West split, was reopened Saturday at a ceremony directly beneath the one-time death strip where the Berlin Wall has stood. The U-2 line, which linked three districts in the East with three in the West when it opened in 1902, was severed when East German Communist authorities built the Berlin Wall in 1961. Its reopening was feted with free beer and a brass band at an underground ceremony on the Reihensiedlung Platz Platform, where Mayor Eberhard Diepgen said the line would help reunite Berlin going back together. "It is more than just a transportation link. This will bring the people East and West closer to each other," Mr. Diepgen said. Stretching from the Olympic Stadium in far Western Berlin to the leafy northeastern section of Pankow, the U-2 runs directly past the spot in the city centre where Hitler had his bunker. Badly damaged in World War II by allied bombs and fleeing Nazis, the line was hastily rebuilt after the war.

India road accident kills 14

NEW DELHI (R) — At least 14 people were killed and 67 injured Saturday in two separate bus crashes near the small Indian town of Ramban in northern Kashmir state, local news agencies said. They said 10 were killed when one bus skidded on a bend and plunged into a gorge. Four died in a later crash not far away on the same national highway. Both buses were heading for the state's winter capital Jammu from the summer capital, Srinagar.

Analysts predict attack by N. Korea

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — North Korea is preparing a major military strike against South Korea and Japan, coordinated with action by Syria and Iran and with the support of China, a conservative analyst said Friday.

The U.S. State Department a week ago denied reports that there had been unusual troop activity in North Korea, and officials said Friday that nothing had changed.

Yossef Bodansky gave his analysis in a news conference and in a paper for the American Security Council Foundation, a private conservative think tank. He said Pyongyang, under the de facto rule of Kim Jong Il, is planning "a dramatic breakout from

ideological deadlock and a collapsing economy."

"The timing of such an attack, if one occurs, will be coordinated with Syria and Iran in order to overwhelm the U.S. and the West," he said. He did not detail what the role of Iran and Syria would be.

Major coordinated military strikes were planned by North Korea and Iran on U.S. election day in November 1992, he said, but the North Koreans "got cold feet."

Mr. Bodansky, who directs a Republican congressional task force on terrorism, said North Korean leader Kim Il Sung, 81, is near death and has effectively passed power on to his son, who is 51.

U.S. officials describe the region as one of the tensest in the world, but have expressed no alarm over recent developments.

"North Korea has long deployed the bulk of its forces in heavily fortified positions north of the demilitarised zone and south of a line running from Pyongyang, the capital, to Wonsan, a major port on the east coast," the department said last week.

"We know of no unusual troop movements or deployment of forces near the DMZ, which separates North and South Korea," it said.

Mr. Bodansky said he has gathered information from unnamed Mideast, Soviet, Chinese and Korean sources.

N. Jersey Democrats seek to have governor election overturned

NEWARK, New Jersey (R) — The New Jersey Democratic Party said Friday it will ask a judge to overturn the election for governor because of allegations that Republicans tried to suppress black votes, and the Justice Department said it was launching an investigation into the scandal.

According to the civil lawsuit by the Democrats, the victory of Republican Christine Whitman by less than 28,000 votes was in part due to "a racially discriminatory strategy" of trying to discourage blacks from voting for Democrat Jim Florio, the incumbent.

A hearing will be held Monday in connection with the civil suit.

The scandal erupted Tuesday when Ed Rollins, chief campaign strategist for Mr. Whitman, said \$500,000 in campaign funds had been funnelled through black ministers to keep the black vote down.

The ministers were allegedly urged to refrain from the usual practice of calling out the vote. Most black voters favour Democratic candidates.

Separately, the U.S. attorney for New Jersey announced the first criminal investigation into the matter.

While noting that there have been public allegations of "voter suppression," he stressed that a new conference that the investigation is at a very preliminary stage.

"Chertoff said his probe would focus only on whether there had been violations of federal criminal law and would not look into whether there were any ethical violations.

The scandal has grown even though Mr. Rollins retracted his statement Wednesday, and Ms. Whitman has adamantly denied that any dirty tricks had been used in the campaign.

On Friday, Ms. Whitman and representatives of black clergymen joined ranks to denounce reports that black preachers were bribed.

After a closed-door meeting, Ms. Whitman, a group of New Jersey black ministers and civil rights leader the Reverend Jesse Jackson held a joint news conference.

Rev. Jackson said, "we are not satisfied. That's why we are asking for a thorough and complete investigation."

But he said Ms. Whitman's cooperation and her denial that she was involved in any of the alleged tactics satisfied him, and that black ministers will not include her in a class-action lawsuit they intend to file against Mr. Rollins.

Ms. Whitman put her reputation on the line Wednesday when she categorically denied that any effort had been made to reduce the black vote. "It did not happen," she said.

But the Reverend Keith Owens stuck by his story that at least five to six ministers were approached.

He says he was told of this by Edward Verner, head of the Black Ministers Council in New Jersey, who met council officials Thursday.

"He (Verner) told me that he had been informed by several clergy who had acknowledged in front of him that they had been approached by the GOP," Rev. Owens told Philadelphia radio station KYW Friday.

Rev. Verner contends that Rev. Owens misunderstood their conversation Thursday, but Rev. Owens said there was no chance that he misheard what Rev. Verner said.

Webster Todd Jr., Ms. Whitman's brother and campaign director before Mr. Rollins, was quoted as saying in Friday's Newark Star-Ledger that the campaign worked to keep the vote tight in some parts of the state.

The New Jersey attorney general announced Friday that he was launching his own investigation. He named two former state attorneys general to conduct the independent review.

Qadhafi: Sanctions pretext for colonising Arab states

CAIRO (Agencies) — "Oil makes the West's mouth water," Muammar Qadhafi said in dismissing new international sanctions on Libya as just another Western pretext to colonise the Arab world.

A century and a half of Arab experience with Europe, Colonel Qadhafi said, prove that the bombing of an American airliner that killed 270 people "is just another bad excuse against Libya."

"It is weak and fabricated," he said Friday night. "They had to come up with something."

The U.N. Security Council voted 11-0 Thursday night to widen existing air, arms and diplomatic sanctions to include a freeze on Libya's overseas assets and a ban on sale of some oil equipment. China, which has a Security Council veto, Pakistan, Djibouti and Morocco abstained.

The new punishments take effect on Dec. 1 unless Libya surrenders two suspects in the 1988 destruction of Pan Am 103 for trial in the United States or Britain.

Libya says it has advised the suspects to accept trial in Scotland but has no power to overrule their refusal.

In London, a correspondent for the official Libyan agency JANA wrote that Scottish attorney Alistair Duff said the two suspects would fight in Libyan court any effort by the government to force them to Scotland. He said he thought they would win.

Mr. Duff is among 12 members of a defence team for the pair, Abdul Basit Ali Megrahi and Lamen Khalifa Fhimah, both alleged to be agents of the Libyan government.

The Scottish lawyer said new sanctions "will not change any-

thing ... concerning their appearance before courts in the U.S. or Scotland," JANA said.

In a report from Libya monitored in Cairo, JANA said Col. Qadhafi commented on his confrontation with the United Nations in a meeting with "the revolutionary force in Zintan," a seaside town 145 kilometres east of Tripoli.

"Oil makes the West's mouth water," he said. "It is the European greed for petroleum that makes them think of invading the places where oil is."

Libya's economy depends on oil to the tune of \$9 billion a year. Its European oil customers reportedly have blocked U.S. and British attempts to hit this source of income by banning oil sales.

Col. Qadhafi said France did not have the Lockerbie case in 1980 when it occupied Algeria, nor Britain when it took control of Egypt in the 1880s, nor Italy when Libya was invaded in 1911, nor the United States when it bombed Tripoli and Benghazi in 1986.

Former President Ronald Reagan ordered the U.S. attack to punish Libya for the bombing of a West Berlin nightclub that killed a U.S. army sergeant and a Turkish woman.

"Lockerbie is an excuse. After Libya it will be Syria to crush its military and economic power," Col. Qadhafi said.

"They want to destroy Egypt, Algeria, Iraq, Libya and Syria so that there will be nobody to face up to them and to gather up the wealth of the Arab nations."

Libya has decided to close its land borders with Egypt and Tunisia for three days, starting from midnight (2200 GMT)

Saturday, Egyptian officials said in Cairo.

The officials said they were informed of the decision by the Libyan authorities.

The borders were being closed in protest at the new U.N. sanctions against Libya. Meanwhile travellers from Libya arriving in Salum, near the border, said thousands of Libyans had started gathering on the country's borders, notably at Musaid, to demonstrate against the sanctions.

The demonstrators chanted slogans denouncing "U.S. imperialism" and "Western colonialism."

Iraq's government newspaper said Saturday the tightening of sanctions against Libya was part of the "political hypocrisy" of Western powers.

Al Jumhuriyah described as unjustified and unfair new economic measures the Security Council ordered against Libya.

"The latest Security Council resolution against Libya ... exposes the international political hypocrisy," it said.

"The great powers in the Security Council ... have forsaken all international principles and turned into commercial companies," it added.

Al Jumhuriyah said the council acted under pressure from Washington.

It is still under sweeping U.N. sanctions imposed in response to its 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

Al Jumhuriyah said the council wanted to see its resolutions against Iraq and Libya fully implemented but paid no attention to those it issued against Israel.

"Has the world seen political hypocrisy greater than that we see today?" it added.



Mir Murtaza Bhutto, brother of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, waves to supporters as he comes to court for a hearing Saturday. Mr. Bhutto is wanted on a string of charges of terrorism and abetment in murders while he was leader of the

Al Zulfikar Organisation (AZO). Mr. Bhutto said his sister's government is gripped by political fear and is over-reacting to his return home (AFP photo)

Heavy fighting rages east of Afghan capital

TAGOB, Afghanistan (R) — Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani asked for a cease-fire Saturday after forces of Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar recaptured a town that has changed hands several times in two weeks of battles.

Mr. Hekmatyar's radical Hezb-e-Islami troops advanced beyond the town of Tagob, about 60 kilometres northeast of Kabul, pushing the battlefront further north into territory held by Mr. Rabbani's Jamiat-e-Islami guerrillas.

"We captured Tagob town three days ago," Hezb-e-Islami commander Zardad said in an interview at his position near the frontline.

"Our objective now is to secure all of the Tagob valley. To do this we must take the mountaintops along the sides of the valley."

Jamiat-e-Islami jets under the command of ex-Defence Minister Ahmad Shah Masoud, a veteran guerrilla leader of the 14-year Afghan civil war and Mr. Hekmatyar's arch-enemy, were bombing nearby peaks. Several jets launched five bombing raids on Hezb-e-Islami positions in one hour.

Hezb-e-Islami forces retaliated with heavy artillery and mortar fire on Jamiat-e-Islami positions north of Tagob.

Mr. Zardad estimated at least 250 civilians have been killed or injured since the

bloody battle for control of the valley erupted with a Hezb-e-Islami assault on Nov. 1. Tagob fell to Hezb last week, only to be retaken by Jamiat-e-Islami a few days later.

The number of casualties among the combatants was not known but was believed to be high after some of the fiercest battles in 18 months of clashes between Mr. Hekmatyar and Mr. Masoud for ultimate power in Kabul.

"We have sent a peace delegation ... but it was rejected by Hezb-e-Islami," presidential spokesman Abdul Aziz Morad said in an interview in Kabul.

"We want a ceasefire now," Mr. Morad said. "Our conditions are that Hezb-e-Islami should vacate the area around Naghlu dam at the southern end of the valley."

Most residents of the valley famed for its pomegranates orchards have fled.

"We are having a time like hell," one villager said.

"We have lost our houses, property and animals. We have lost our safety," said another in a small settlement just south of the frontline. "We don't want this imposed war any more. We want peace."

Officials and hospitals say more than 10,000 civilians have been killed in previous blistering but inconclusive rounds of fighting between the two parties in and around Kabul since

the guerrillas took power from the former communist government in April 1992.

Hezb-e-Islami commander Kashmir Khan said his forces were still holding two foreign reporters, New Zealander Terence White of Agence France Presse and John Jennings of the Associated Press, who were arrested while visiting the frontline on Monday with Jamiat-e-Islami officials.

"I want to release them as soon as possible in a public ceremony, but as you can see for yourself I am very busy at present fighting against Mr. Masoud's forces," Mr. Khan said by radio from the battlefront where he is commanding the Hezb-e-Islami assault.

He declined to say where the two reporters were being held or by which commander.

Mr. Masoud stepped down last time as part of a compromise deal under which Mr. Rabbani retained the post of president while Mr. Hekmatyar became prime minister. He is believed to remain the power behind the scenes and Mr. Rabbani's main source of support.

In the past few weeks, both Mr. Masoud and Mr. Hekmatyar have moved large numbers of tanks as well as heavy artillery into the area amid signs the two rivals were preparing for a fresh showdown in their 18-month-old struggle for supremacy in Afghanistan.

Yemeni cabinet mediates in crisis

SANAA (R) — Yemen's coalition government, caught in the country's worst crisis in three years of unity, is mediating in a growing row between the president and his deputy.

The official Al Thawra newspaper said Saturday the cabinet formed a committee headed by Prime Minister Haider Abu Baker Al Attas to ensure "proper conditions and atmosphere for the resumption of dialogue between members of the coalition."

The committee has asked ministers to curb army activities, speed up investigations into political killings, and ban inflammatory speeches which could threaten reconciliation.

Yemen's two main political parties, the General People's Congress (GPC) of President Ali Abdullah Saleh and the Yemen Socialist Party (YSP) of Vice-President Ali Salem Al Baeed, have been at odds since July over political and economic reforms.

The crisis is the worst since Yemen united in 1990. The two parties had shared power until general elections in April when the Islamist Party, Islah, won enough seats to make it the third partner in the coalition.

The YSP, based in former South Yemen, says Mr. Saleh's party is trying to run everything its own way, turning unification into annexation.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), which is trying to mediate, has warned politicians the quarrel could turn violent and undo the work of unification.

A cabinet statement said the mediation committee "will follow up the developments of the current political crisis and work towards the elimination of all its signs and effects."

It asked Defence Minister Haidam Qassem Taher to dismantle "newly introduced posts and checkpoints, return army units with their arms to pre-crisis positions and stop new reinforcements."

The former North and South Yemen armies have yet to merge and there have been persistent rumours of army movements in recent weeks.

The armed forces newspaper September 26 said old Friday reports of troop movements in various parts of Yemen were all "baseless and fabricated"

COLUMN 8

Top U.S. cardinal charged with sexual abuse

CHICAGO (AFP) — One of the most senior Roman Catholic leaders in the United States was accused of sexually abusing a former seminarian student in a \$10-million lawsuit.

Cardinal Joseph Bernardin denied the charges that he sodomised Steven Cook, 34, sometime between 1975 and 1977 when Cook was a student at a Cincinnati, Ohio, seminary where Card. Bernardin was an archbishop. "I'm flabbergasted. I said, 'how could this be?'" he said, "how could this be?"

The Chicago cardinal is one of the highest ranking U.S. Catholic clerics to be accused of sexual abuse. He heads 2.3 million Catholics in the second biggest U.S. archdiocese. Mr. Cook said he had waited 15 years to make the accusations because the incidents were only now coming back to him.

Police in Cincinnati, where the lawsuit was filed, said Mr. Cook had never come to them with the allegations. Mr. Cook said he not only wanted hefty financial compensation, but insisted the cardinal be removed from his job. Card. Bernardin said that with the new charges, three accusations have been made against him, all of them in the past year. He called all three totally false. One was a woman who accused him of participating in a satanic ritual 35 or 36 years ago and the other from a young man who accused him and others of participating in an orgy. Card. Bernardin said.

Head of Catholic monastery sues over sex claim

CRANHAM, England (R) — A Benedictine monk has resigned as head of a monastery in southern England after a young man filed a complaint of sexual misconduct against him, the religious community said Friday. Reverend Mark Hargreaves submitted his resignation to the church authorities in Rome last week following a complaint by a 22-year-old would-be monk who was visiting the religious order at Prinknash Abbey in the County of Gloucestershire. The abbey's prior said in a statement that Hargreaves left the monastery to avoid disrupting the community's life and was already undergoing treatment at a clergy therapy centre. "The monks at Prinknash are praying for his welfare, as well as for God's forgiveness of their former abbot," said Prior Fabian Blyton. "For any monk, but particularly for one as senior as an abbot, to break the church's requirement of chastity, or the Benedictine tradition of hospitality, is to be very seriously regretted." The prior said the young man, who has not been named, had been offered counselling by another Catholic agency.

Michael Jackson hooked on painkillers

LOS ANGELES (R) — Pop superstar Michael Jackson abruptly cancelled his world tour Friday, saying he was addicted to painkilling drugs. In an audiotape released by his publicist Jackson said it was impossible for him to continue performing under his addiction and the stress of accusations he sexually molested a young boy in California. In the audiotape, possibly the longest statement to the press ever made by the reticent entertainer, Jackson spoke of his growing dependency on pain killers and the charges made against him. "It is time for me to acknowledge my need for treatment in order to regain my health," Jackson said. He described charges of sexual molestation made by a 14-year-old boy, who claimed Jackson engaged in masturbation and oral sex with him, as "an extortion attempt." Jackson's representatives in California have said the boy's father had tried to get more than \$1 million from the Jackson camp for a film treatment and when the deal went sour the boy and the father sued the star, alleging sexual molestation. Jackson's longtime friend and supporter, Elizabeth Taylor, rushed to his aid Thursday in Mexico City and arranged for him to go to a clinic in Gstaad, Switzerland. Jackson flew to London Friday night and was believed to be waiting for a plane to Gstaad, where Taylor has a home.

China airliner crashlands

BEIJING (Agencies) — A Chinese MD-82 airliner crashed while landing in the far western city of Urumqi Saturday and according to local officials there were casualties, the official Xinhua news agency said.

Teh China Northern Airlines aircraft, on a flight from the northeastern city of Shenyang to the Xinjiang provincial capital of Urumqi via Beijing, crashed at 14:56 local time (0656 GMT), the news agency said.

"Local officials reported some casualties, and the injured have been rushed to hospitals," the agency said, without giving further details.

"The cause of the accident is now being investigated," Xinhua said at the end of its brief report.

An official at northern airlines' headquarters in Shenyang said the plane was not full but added that he had no information on how many people were aboard. An MD-82 can carry 72 passengers, according to Jane's All the World's Aircraft.

Xinhua called the incident "an accident while landing." It said an unspecified number on board were injured and taken to hospitals, but did not mention any fatalities.

The airline official said the crew were five.

China Northern is one of China's main state-owned carriers. On Friday one of its airliners was hijacked to Taiwan (see page 8). The airplane returned home with its passengers and crew, but the two hijackers remained under arrest by Taiwan authorities.

The crash in Urumqi follows a string of air accidents over the past two years which have raised concern over safety standards in China's rapidly expanding aviation sector.

Saturday's crash is the third reported in China this year. All have taken place during landings.

Late last month, two people were killed and 13 injured when another MD-82 passenger plane veered off the runway while landing at the coastal city of Fuzhou.

In July, a British Aerospace

146 airliner crashed on its second attempt at landing in Yinchuan in the western province of Ningxia, killing 55 people.

Attempts to telephone Xinjiang officials and Urumqi airport were unsuccessful, and a spokesman at the long-distance telephone booking office in Beijing said the lines were under repair and were unlikely to be fully operational soon.

Fuelled by China's fast-growing economy, the country's aviation sector has expanded quickly over the past year as airlines attempt to keep up with surging passenger demand.

Passenger traffic grew by 33 per cent last year and is expected to rise by at least 20 per cent this year, putting sharp strains on overburdened airports and air traffic control systems.

Last year was one of the worst reported in China's aviation history, with a series of accidents over a four-month period in late 1992 killing at least 276 passengers, including many foreign tourists.

NEWS IN BRIEF

U.N. cannot confirm shooting

KUWAIT (AP) — United Nations observers patrolling the disputed Kuwait-Iraq border said Saturday they could not confirm a border shooting incident reported by the emirate earlier in the week. Abdul Latif Kabhaj, spokesman for the U.N. Kuwait-Iraq Observer Mission, said investigations by the world body's officers could not substantiate the "alleged incident." Kuwait claimed that Iraqis opened fire on a Kuwaiti patrol posted at Al Mezareh east of the Abadi border post Wednesday, but Iraq denied that any shooting incident had taken place and accused Kuwait of fabricating it. Kuwait's Interior Ministry said its forces returned fire. No casualties were reported.

Iraqi team due in New York

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) — Technical talks between Iraq and the United Nations on disarmament issues will begin Monday at U.N. headquarters in New York, a U.N. spokesman said Friday. An Iraqi team led by General Amer Rachid, director of Baghdad's Military Industrialisation Organisation, is due at the discussions which could last a week, said Tim Trevan, the spokesman for the U.N. commission charged with disarming Iraq. According to diplomatic sources, Baghdad wants to discuss with the U.N. disarmament commission the remaining issues related to eliminating its weapons of mass destruction and to long-term U.N. monitoring of Iraqi disarmament, prior to a visit to New York by Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz on Nov. 20.

300 students held in Sudan

CAIRO (R) — Sudanese police arrested about 300 students during protests in Khartoum and detained former Prime Minister Sadek Al Mahdi for questioning, Arab newspapers said Saturday. Students at Khartoum University protested this week after a group supporting the Islamic government won student elections they said were rigged.

Sudanese sources described the protests as the biggest student unrest for two years. The London-based Al Hayat newspaper quoted official sources as saying about 300 students were arrested during protests on Wednesday but most of them were released on Friday. Al Sharq Al Awsat, also published in London, said 350 were arrested. Al Hayat also said Mr. Mahdi, prime minister in Sudan's democratic period from 1986 to 1989, was questioned for eight hours after meeting the U.S. ambassador to Sudan.

Tajiks extradite 108 Afghans

MOSCOW (AFP) — Tajikistan authorities were to extradite to Afghanistan Saturday 108 Afghan soldiers who were seeking asylum from the Central Asian country. Tajik Foreign Ministry spokesman Azafar Saidov said. Mr. Saidov, quoted by Interfax, said buses carrying the soldiers travelled Saturday to the border town of Termez in neighbouring Uzbekistan where they were to be handed over to Afghan military officials. Tajik officials late Thursday extradited Afghan General Begi who crossed into Tajikistan waving a white flag on Nov. 6 along with the soldiers who were fleeing fighting among rival clans. The extradition of the servicemen was negotiated during a telephone conversation Friday evening between Tajik Foreign Minister Rashid Alimov and his Afghan counterpart Hedayat Amin Arsala, Mr. Saidov said.

5 killed in Fayoum blast

CAIRO (AP) — Five members of a family were killed Saturday and seven people were injured in an explosion of an "unidentified object" the father was using to repair his bicycle, police said. The blast occurred outside the village house near Fayoum, 80 kilometres south of Cairo, of Ramadan Ibrahim Metwali, who police said had owned the device that exploded for some time. A security officer speaking anonymously under regulations said explosives experts were trying to identify the object that killed Metwali, two sons and two other relatives.

Clinton offers incentives to Rabin

WASHINGTON (R) — President Bill Clinton Friday pledged to sell Israel advanced U.S. warplanes and previously restricted computer technology to encourage the Israelis to cooperate further in the Middle East peace process.

He also promised the United States would not cut its annual \$3 billion in assistance to America's top ally in the Middle East and would consult with Congress on other ways that Israel could "defray the cost of peace."

Mr. Clinton confirmed the moves at a news conference with visiting Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin that was overshadowed by a development that could undermine the historic Israel Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) peace accord signed at the White House two months ago.

The Israeli army said it had determined that five members of the Fatah faction of Yasser Arafat's PLO were responsible for the Sept. 29 killing of a Jewish settler on the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

Both Mr. Clinton and Mr. Rabin publicly called on Arafat to condemn the attack. Mr. Clinton said Mr. Arafat was "duty-bound at a minimum" to do so under terms of the peace accord.

"I think we all recognise that he (Arafat) may not have total control over everyone who acts in the name of Fatah, but he is now bound by ... the clear terms of the agreement to condemn it," Mr. Clinton said.

Mr. Rabin added, "The PLO must condemn vigorously, openly and immediately any action that is in flagrant violation of the commitment to renounce terrorism."

As an incentive to make Israelis more willing to deal with Syria, Mr. Clinton said Washington would "maintain our present levels of assistance" and renewed "America's unshakable pledge to maintain and enhance Israeli's qualitative security edge."

Mr. Clinton said he was working on an agreement to "make available a number of planes to the Israelis."

He declined to give details pending meetings Mr. Rabin is having Monday with Defence Secretary Les Aspin. But a strong possibility was that Washington would offer the next generation of U.S. combat aircraft, the F-15E.

Mr. Rabin said Mr. Clinton told him the United States would also lift barriers that would allow the Jewish state to import more U.S. computer and electronic technology and would "beef up our capacity to defend ourselves against missiles."

Some of the most sophisticated U.S. hardware had been banned for export to Israel because it has both civilian and military applications, particularly for use in ballistic missiles.

Israel is also looking for ways to meet the roughly \$250 million in costs for roads and military bases required for redeploying Israeli troops from Gaza and Jericho as part of the peace accord with the PLO.

To help Israel "defray the cost of peace," Mr. Clinton said he

would consult with Congress on allowing Israel to use some of the \$10 billion in U.S. loan guarantees extended last year for absorbing Russian Jews to pay for redeployment projects in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Mr. Rabin was heartened by the news he received on the second day of a 10-day visit to North America.

"I return home stronger in many aspects, more confident in our ability to reach peace and reassured that thousands of miles away from Israel, we have a true friend in the White House that we can rely on," he said.

Mr. Clinton said it is essential that Israel and Syria make peace in order to get a comprehensive Middle East settlement but declined to discuss ways to advance that process.

Syria has threatened to boycott a 12th round of U.S.-brokered Middle East talks, saying no real progress has been made in 11 rounds over the past two years in Washington.

2 New York blast suspects reportedly try suicide

NEW YORK (Agencies) — Two defendants in the World Trade Centre bombing case tried to commit suicide in their Manhattan prison cells, according to the New York Times.

Neither man, Ahmad Ajaj and Bilal Al Kaisi, was seriously injured Thursday, the daily reported in Saturday's editions.

Both men had cut themselves with razors, and Mr. Kaisi tried to hang himself with a torn bed sheet, the Times said, citing defence lawyers. It was not clear whether the men had coordinated their acts, according to the reports.

A spokeswoman at the pre-trial detention centre where they are being held said the suicide attempts and subsequent commotion led to a disruption by other inmates in the maximum-security wing which was quieted by corrections officers, the Times said.

The official spoke on condi-

tion of anonymity. Eight to 10 officers, alerted by a bombing defendant in a cell neighbouring Mr. Kaisi's, struggled to remove the razor from Mr. Kaisi's hand, Robert L. Ellis, Mr. Kaisi's lawyer, told the Times.

Mr. Kaisi appeared to have only superficial wounds on his arms, Mr. Ellis told the Times.

Mr. Ajaj and Mr. Kaisi staged hunger strikes earlier this week.

Mr. Ellis told the Times that his client had tried to hang himself after cutting himself with the razor, but it was not clear if Mr. Kaisi was hanging from the sheet when his cell was stormed.

Other defence attorneys said they were advised but would speak only on condition of anonymity because of a court order against discussing the bombing cases outside court.

Mr. Kaisi, one of five defendants in the world trade centre

case, is being tried separately from the four others because the evidence against them applies only marginally to Mr. Kaisi.

The defence lawyers told the Times that frustrations and despair were growing among many of the 19 defendants charged in two cases, the Feb. 26 bombing of the World Trade Centre and a plot to bomb other New York City landmarks.

Mr. Kaisi and other prisoners are confined alone to cells for 23 hours a day, Mr. Ellis said. Last Wednesday, Mr. Ajaj's lawyer, Austin V. Campriello, told Judge Kevin T. Duffy of Mr. Ajaj's complaints, many about prison food.

Lawyers were not notified of the suicide attempts until Friday afternoon, nearly 24 hours after they happened, the Times said.

There was no indication that

this week's events at the Federal metropolitan Correctional centre would disrupt the trial of four defendants, now under way in federal court in Manhattan.

They are charged with the bombing in the heart of New York's financial district which killed six people and wounded about 1,000.

Mr. Campriello said he and other lawyers were turned away at the prison by guards when they attempted to see their clients housed on the prison's high-security, ninth-floor south wing.

Family members of suspects in the bombing case, and that of the 15 other defendants charged in the alleged plot to bomb the United Nations and other New York targets have also been denied visits.

Most of the defendants have been on a hunger strike since Monday in protest against the prison conditions. Mr. Campriello said.